Nurse scoops award
(See story on page 3).

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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PEAK PERFORMANCE
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Porthcawl marks the Great War
Pages 26 and 27

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

See our feature on pages 16-19

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

Local school looks back on busy year
Pages 8 and 9

'Innocent man' had cheekbone fractured in Porthcawl attack

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

ALCOHOL-fuelled violence in Porthcawl resulted in a totally innocent man suffering a fractured cheekbone, which required the insertion of two metal plates.

For what was described as "a vicious, unprovoked, gratuitous attack", Ellis Perks appeared at Cardiff Crown Court and was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Perks, of Gibbons Way, North Cornelly, was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and to pay his victim, Andrew O'Brien, £750 compensation.

He pleaded guilty to a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Said Judge Tom Crowther QC: "Mr O'Brien was absolutely blameless. This was a disgraceful episode."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on the night of October 13 last year, Mr O'Brien and a friend, Owain Davies, had a night out in Porthcawl.

In one bar, they saw Perks, who shouted:"What are you looking at?"

He later said he was going to knock out the two men.

They went outside and were followed by Perks, who offered Mr O'Brien the chance to throw the first punch. He refused.

Perks then pushed him into the road and delivered "a very powerful punch" to his head.

Mr O'Brien was taken to Morriston Hospital where two metal plates were put into his fractured left cheekbone.

When arrested said Mr Greenwood, Perks said he had been drunk but would not accept he was the aggressor.

The victim, a bricklayer, said he had lost seven weeks' employment and had struggled to pay his mortgage.

He added that he was not sleeping properly, was taking very strong painkillers and could not handle being in a crowd, with the result that he could not use his season ticket to watch Cardiff City.

He also said he had become withdrawn and feared for his safety.

John Ryan, for Perks, said: "One punch was delivered. There has been real contrition and he is disgusted and ashamed.

"He is trusted and is hardworking. This is his first conviction for violence."

Much of the time, he said, he took care of his invalid father.

Vale Show set fair for success!

Picture by GLYN EVANS

THE morning of the Vale Show at Fonmon dawned with organisers casting anxious glances towards the sky, as showers had been forecast yesterday (Wednesday).

However, visitors were not put off and, as the crowds settled in for a busy day taking in all the attractions, it soon became clear that any showers were going to be short-lived.

There was plenty of sunshine too, and it was obvious visitor numbers were going to be right up with previous good years.

Especially popular were some of the new attractions.

The horticultural section – always popular – drew crowds to see the giant vegetable section.

Also popular was the poultry section, where there was plenty to see that was new.

Traders were busy in the craft and food marquees, as the Vale's premier rural event delivered the goods!

Maesteg arsonist given nine-year sentence

(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3).

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Non-stop week for ATC squadron

Cadets and staff at RAFA Porthcawl.

Cadets presenting plaque to Andrew Cawley Airborne Systems.

ON Saturday, July 26 Kenfig Hill ATC were invited to the Royal Air Force Association Club in Porthcawl where the chairman and members of the RAFA committee welcomed the squadron, along with Wing Commander Mike Stones, Officer Commanding No 3 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets, and his deputy, Squadron Leader Gerry Lewis.

This was a thank you to the staff and cadets for their efforts in supporting the RAFA annual Wings Appeal, and for winning the Sir Douglas Bader trophy for collecting the most per cadet throughout 2013.

Then, on Monday, July 28, cadets from Kenfig Hill, along with other squadrons from the eastern sector of No 3 Welsh Wing, visited British Airways interiors in Blackwood. They were shown around by Paul Bradbury and the tour included the experience of seeing a Boeing 747 escape chute being set off. To pass regulations this has to fully inflate in eight seconds.

The cadets presented Paul Bradbury with a slate plaque commemorating their visit.

On Wednesday, July 30 the cadets visited Airborne Systems in Llangeinor near Bridgend. They were shown around Airborne Systems by Andrew Cowley and looked at the assembly where parachutes are cut through to being sewn and assembled.

One of the highlights was seeing chutes which are used on the Vulcan Bomber, Hawk and those designed for the RAF Falcons: the RAF Parachute Display Team.

Once again the cadets presented a slate plaque to Andrew Cowley to commemorate their visit.

On Thursday, July 31, 16 cadets from Kenfig Hill and Bridgend travelled to RAF Cosford for a day's flying in a Grob Tutor aircraft. The weather was in their favour and they all had 20 minutes' flying time, in which time they experienced basic acrobatics.

While at RAF Cosford, the cadets were also treated to the sight of three RAF Jaguar aircraft used by RAF apprentices while in trade training, taxiing up and down the taxiways.

The week ended with cadets from Kenfig Hill joining cadets from 499 (Port Talbot) RAF Air Cadets and Port Talbot Sea Cadets at Saint Mary's Church, Port Talbot on Sunday, August 3 at a service to commemorate World War One.

Quite a busy week for the cadets – and it doesn't stop there during the school holidays. Cadets from the squadron will be attending summer camp over the next two weeks.

Sqn Ldr Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding, 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Porthcawl branch of RAFA for their kind hospitality on July 26 and also to thank Flt Sgt (ATC) Kevin Gould and staff for their time and commitment over this very busy week.

LT

HOSPICE GARDEN PARTY RAISED £2,000

THE Marie Curie hospice at Penarth held its annual garden party last Saturday, and despite a sudden deluge of rain, thunder and lightning half way through the afternoon, it was great to have such fantastic support from local people, who turned up regardless of the weather and helped us raise over £2,000, with more money still to come in.

The event was opened by Matt Johnson – TV presenter – who had a great time meeting local people and also visiting some patients and saying a thank you to the wonderful nursing staff at the hospice.

The usual stalls such as cakes and books did a great trade as did the Rotary Club's bottle stall and everyone enjoyed the jazz band, playing 'You Are My Sunshine' in one of the heaviest downpours of the afternoon!

The fundraising team would like to say thank you to all local businesses for the many raffle prizes: Welsh Brothers catering butchers for the donation of a hog roast; Roadchef Magor for providing all refreshments, and RAF St Athan for providing tables and the manpower to put them up on the day!

We also want to say a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers on the day – we really couldn't do it without this wonderful help.

We also still have a bottle of champagne here for the lucky programme winner (Number 134) and if anyone has that number please call into the fundraising office to claim your prize.

Our next event is Walk Ten at Margam Park on Saturday, August 16. If anyone would like to come along, visit mariecurie.org.uk/margam or call 02920 426068 .

Karen Jones,
Hospice Fundraising Manager, Marie Curie Hospice Cardiff & the Vale and SE Wales.

Who wants to build what, and where?

*Cardtronics UK Ltd – **Spar Stores, 66 John Street, Porthcawl** – Retention of ATM surround and illuminated advert.*
*Herbert R Thomas – **The Toll House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend** – Three fascia and four hanging signs.*
*Mr Allan Underhill – **20 Ffridd Las, Broadlands** – 30 per cent reduction of trees to rear.*
*Mr Philip Davies – **29 Croft Goch Road, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend** – Replace existing garage.*
*Mr Stephen Williams – **Maendy Farm, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch** – Two-storey extension to the side of existing property.*
*Barron Properties – **48 Miller's Avenue, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Change of use from B1/B2/B8 use to sales and workshop to service and repair construction equipment (sui generis).*
*Ms Chrystelle Davies – **15 Glyn Street, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend** – Rear two-storey kitchen/bedroom extension, bay window frontage and rear garage.*
*Valleys to Coast Housing – **Land at Plas Morlais, North Cornelly** – Erect four dwelling houses – Barnhaus pilot project.*
***Mulberry Homes Ltd – 15 Crown Road, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend** – Erection of single bungalow, re-modelling of garage and associated works.*
*Cardtronics UK Ltd – **Spar Stores, 66 John Street, Porthcawl** – Retention of automated teller machine.*
*Ms Simona Richards – **3 Caer Berllan, Pencoed** – Single-storey rear extension with garage.*
*Persimmon Homes West Wales – **Plot 2, Phase 2, Castle Heights, Parc Derwen, Coity Bridgend** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.*
*Herbert R Thomas – **The Toll House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend** – Fascia lettering in stainless steel/brushed aluminium, hanging sign and board sign.*
*Mr GJ Gore – **17 Pant Hirwaun, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend** – Proposed single-storey extension to rear of dwelling and internal alterations.*
*Mr Darrel Clarke – **30 Phillip Avenue, Bridgend** – Proposed single-storey extension to rear of dwelling providing shower room and garden room.*
*Mr Morgan – **15 Maes y Grug, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Convert and extend garage.*
*Mr Marc Evans – **26 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – Change of use from former florist to cask ale bar with renovations to shop front.*
*Mr and Mrs Adrian Cross – **16 Woodland Rise, Bridgend** – Two-storey extension.*
*Mr Justin Lott – **107 Oaklands Road, Bridgend** – Single-storey ground floor extension and attic conversion with rear dormer extension.*
*Sandrock Development Ltd – **Land off Tythegston Close, Porthcawl** – Development of four dwellings, provision of open space and associated works.*

Have fun, and back Welsh cancer charity's work!

A FAMILY fun day at Bridgend's Brewery Field this Saturday, sponsored by the Bridgend branch of Peter Alan, from 11am to 4pm, will include a fun fair, a bouncy castle, mini go-karts, pottery painting, glitter tattoos, and face-painting.

Visitors can browse arts and crafts stalls, sample the food court, meet favourite children's characters and even get up close to live reptiles!

There will also be live displays on the pitch throughout the day, as well as a real fire engine, and music from local radio station 106.3 Bridge FM.

With all money raised on the gate going to Cancer Research Wales, visitors can have a great time for a great cause.

Organiser Clare Roach said: "This promises to be an amazing day for all the family. We have booked some incredible attractions and stalls. We also have a few surprise characters coming along on the day which we think the little ones will love.

"Our aim is to make the Bridgend family fun day the highlight of the summer holidays and raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research Wales."

Peter Alan Bridgend branch manager, Janice Walker added: "We are delighted to be sponsoring this amazing event for our local community. As well as offering a fun day out, this will raise money for the brilliant Cancer Research Wales. Please come along, enjoy a great day and support a fantastic cause."

You can find out more about the Bridgend Family Fun Day at https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFunDayBridgend.

Fun day organiser Clare Roach (left) with Janice Walker.

Bridgend PACT

MORFA town PACT at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, on Monday, August 18, at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD, Pendre and Coity PACT at Litchard Mission, on Thursday, August 28 at 7pm.

FELINDRE, Hendre, Penprysg (Pencoed) and Coychurch PACT at Pencoed Buffs Club, Pencoed, on Thursday, September 4 at 7pm.

BRACKLA PACT at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, on Thursday, September 4 at 6.30pm.

BRYNTIRION, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on Thursday, September 11 at 7pm.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
14 Thur	09.44	10.3	22.07	10.4
15 Fri	10.26	9.9	22.48	9.7
16 Sat	11.11	9.4	23.32	9.2
17 Sun	11.54	8.7		
18 Mon	00.21	8.5	12.49	8.1
19 Tues	01.24	7.9	13.58	7.7
20 Wed	02.48	7.6	17.31	7.7
21 Thur	04.04	7.8	16.41	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.
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Maesteg arsonist is given a nine-year jail sentence

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AN arsonist who started a blaze during a dispute with a neighbour has been given an extended sentence of nine years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones ordered that Tina Potter, 54, should serve a prison sentence of six years and be on licence for the remaining three years.

Potter, of Caerau Road, Maesteg, had been found guilty of arson, being reckless as to whether life would be endangered.

She was found not guilty of damaging by fire a flat in Caerau Road with intent to endanger life.

The court heard that in 2010, she was convicted of an offence of arson, committed in a supermarket.

Prosecutor David Elias said that on November 3 last year, Potter pushed a piece of lighted paper through the letterbox of a flat in Caerau Road.

Bethan Worrell lived in that road, and Potter lived above her. In the past, there had been difficulties with Potter, who had been causing a nuisance to Bethan Worrell.

Potter had put takeaway food through the letterbox and had been loud and noisy.

Matters came to a head, said Mr Elias, on November 3 when Potter was seen in the street drunk.

She shouted to Bethan Worrell: "Come over here and you are dead."

The neighbour ignored her.

Shortly after, a teenager saw Potter light a piece of paper and put it through a letterbox, but it was not the letterbox of Bethan Worrell.

Potter walked off and the Fire Service were called.

Fortunately, the occupier of the premises, Norah Jones, had gone out.

Luckily, said Mr Elias, the piece of paper became stuck in the letterbox and the only damage was to that and a draught excluder.

"But, it has to be said, it was only a matter of chance that it was not more serious," said Mr Elias.

The piece of paper used turned out to be the receipt for a cigarette lighter, bought shortly before by Potter.

She denied both offences and when arrested, said: "No, I didn't start any fire."

She claimed she had been "set up" by neighbours who wanted her evicted.

She also denied having the lighter because she didn't smoke.

"It was nothing less than Potter clutching at straws," Mr Elias added.

Linda Feagan (left) of Dogs Trust Bridgend accepts the Local Heroes award from Bridge FM presenter, Sam Vaughan and sponsor Samantha Marshall, of Pink Butterfly Brides.

DOGS TRUST IS HONOURED FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

THE Dogs Trust in Bridgend are celebrating after being recognised for their local contribution to animal welfare, winning the Bridge FM Local Heroes award for outstanding contribution to animal welfare, sponsored by Pink Butterfly Brides.

The rehoming centre's work was honoured at an award ceremony on Friday, July 25, at The Best Western Heronston Hotel.

Linda Feagan, the Dogs Trust Bridgend supporter relations officer, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to win the award. It's a huge honour to be recognised for our work and are immensely grateful for all the local support particularly all our amazing volunteers.

"Dogs Trust are proud to be recognised as such a valued part of the community."

Anyone interested in offering a dog a new home should call Dogs Trust Bridgend on **01656 725 219** or visit *www.dogstrust.org.uk*

Dogs Trust Bridgend has dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes. When matching dogs with new owners, staff will consider a wide range of homes and circumstances, providing that they fit the requirements of the dog and provide them with a loving lasting home.

'FANTASTIC NURSE' LOUISE SCOOPS AWARD AND SAYS

...'I am just doing my job!'

SPECIALIST Parkinson's nurse Louise Ebenezer has won the Carer of the Year Award in this year's Bridge FM Local Hero Awards.

Louise was nominated by her patients at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Julia Phillips has first-hand experience of the service Louise provides, as her husband Tony was diagnosed with Parkinson's 12 years ago.

Fundraiser with the Parkinson's UK Bridgend branch, Julia said: "Louise is absolutely fantastic. Everyone in the group feels the same way about her.

"On one occasion, my husband was having a particularly bad day. Louise came to the house and sat in the garden with him for half an hour, holding his hand and talking to him.

"She phoned me every day for several days after that to see how he was. Louise really is marvellous. The award is richly deserved and the group will be delighted when I tell them about it."

ABOVE: Louise Ebenezer.

Louise has been the Parkinson's disease nurse specialist (PDNS) at Princess of Wales Hospital for 11 years.

She looks after more than 450 patients from across the Bridgend county and parts of the Vale, including Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

Louise explained: "Parkinson's is a really complex and progressive chronic illness. It has no known cause and there is no cure.

"We see patients from their early 20s upwards. I counsel them when they are first diagnosed. I explain to them what it is and how it can progress, but in a manner they will understand.

"At the same time I give them hope – even though it's a degenerative disease, we'll always be here to support them and there is always something on the horizon that can help them."

"When I found out I had been nominated I felt really quite humbled that the patients think of me as highly as they do. I'm thrilled to bits – it's a thank you for the work you do.

"But I never think of myself of going above and beyond. To me, I'm just doing my job."

Looking back *and forward to Christmas!*

LOOKING back over Pencoed WI's programme and activities for the past eight months, I am amazed at how busy we have been.

Excellent speakers, many walks, lovely lunches – particularly the one at the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel – many laughs and interesting afternoons at the craft club.

The book club is still doing well and the theatre group are looking forward to seeing The Lion King in November.

Our annual meeting in May saw no change in the committee. At the Glamorgan Federation Show in July, it was congratulations to Jan Lewis, who had a first for her painting and a second for her flower arranging.

Now I hate to say this but Christmas is not far away and this year we are holding our autumn fayre on November 8 at Pencoed Welfare Hall, in aid of First Responders. We have rented tables to seven talented people and the range of goods for sale will be better than ever.

The WI will have all their usual stalls so please make a note on your calendar.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Pencoed Welfare Hall from 1.45pm – 4.15pm. For further information, contact Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 01656860289. ***PP***

The Bridgend Ramblers set a hot pace!

BACK in March, the Wales Pedometer Challenge invited individuals and walking groups in Wales to take up the challenge of recording all the walking they did and to challenge themselves to gradually increase their daily or weekly totals.

In order to add some spice to the challenge, their website, *www.walespedometerchallenge.org.uk* allowed the creation of teams as groups of individuals.

Bridgend Ramblers took up the challenge and now have a team of 27 individuals recording their steps.

Alan Morgan, of Bridgend Ramblers, said: "As from early August, we have accumulated over 7,800 miles between us and are currently the team with the greatest total.

"In addition, five of our team members are in the top 25 walkers.

"Although some of our competitor teams seem to have stopped recording their steps, we continue to progress and hope to break 10,000 miles before the challenge ends.

"If you'd like to walk with us, then why not come along for a try? We meet at Bridgend Rec at 9.15am each Sunday and drive to a local point to start the walk. See the website www.bridgendramblers.co.uk for details."

Aled meets his fans in Bridgend

Aled Davies and colleagues: Tom Davies, Ben Clatworthy, Jackie Thomas, Aled Davies.

ONE of Wales' finest para-athletes made a special appearance in Bridgend ahead of the IPC Athletics European Championships, later this month (August 18 – 23).

Aled Sion Davies returned from winning a silver medal in the F42/44 discus at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow to meet customers and colleagues at Sainsbury's, sponsor of the British Para-athletic team.

Aled will be part of a 56-strong British team set to compete in the IPC Athletics European Championships, which will see para-athletes compete at the highest level.

Aled said: "After the excitement of the Commonwealth Games, it's great to continue the summer of sport on home turf. I'm really looking forward to competing against the best in Europe and I'm confident that, sponsored by Sainsbury's, we will do a fantastic job."

Gemma Fewings, deputy manager of Bridgend store, commented: "It's not every day that our customers pick up their shopping and see a local sporting star in action so I was delighted to welcome Aled into the store.

"We'll certainly be supporting the team when the competition gets underway, and would urge local people to get behind them as well."

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Bucket collection raises £334 for the Noah's Ark appeal

THE Noah's Ark appeal for the Children's Hospital in Wales benefited by £334.47 – after a bucket collection was held at Asda in Maesteg.

The collection was organised by Alan Pearson from Maesteg Community Garden Projects and supported by the Asda staff and representatives from Maesteg Army Cadets and Every Link Counts.

"Many thanks to the generous people of Maesteg and all those who helped with the collection," they said.

QUIZ LEAGUE POSERS

HERE are your four for thought:

1. What is the TV programme 'Top Gear' about?

2. What, according to Marilyn Monroe, were a girl's best friend?

3. Which rugby league team are known as 'The Rhinos'?

4. Which present-day country's people are known as 'The Magyars'?

A RUDGE
(for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Motoring.
2. Diamonds.
3. Leeds.
4. Hungary.

History group researches local wartime heroes

MEMBERS of the Bridgend U3A history group have, over the past 18 months, researched all the 149 names from World War One on the Bridgend War Memorial.

On Saturday, August 2, members manned a display table at the Porthcawl World War One event, which showed how much effort, and patience, was needed to trace these names. Fascinating stories were revealed, including one man killed during flying training, others lost at sea and a rugby international also fell.

The display was visited by members of the public, the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan and the High Sheriff for Mid Glamorgan, Mrs E Singer DL, who had earlier officially opened the event.

The group has published a booklet 'Bridgend War Memorial: a remembrance of the men who died as a result of the 1914-1918 War'. It is available for purchase at a cost of £2 from the Local and Family History Centre, Ty'r Ardd, Sunnyside, Bridgend, from Ewenny Pottery and also the Porthcawl Museum, John Street, Porthcawl.

Charity party helped to raise over £500!

THE Civic Charity Committee and the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, Coun Gary Thomas – held a successful summer party at Heron Hall, Heronsbridge School, Bridgend on July 13.

We had support from local stores – especially the Brackla Co-op, ASDA, Sainsbury's and Tesco's. Heron Hall was sanctioned as the venue by headteacher Mrs Glynis James to support, along with the staff of the school, the Civic Charity.

Other full support came from Talgarth Bakery, Maesteg. Dawnswyr Pen-y-bont Dancers who have been coming for many years entertained again this year, with four very energetic dances.

Young members of Aelwyd Porthcawl excelled with group singing, year-10 under-19 years, group 7 to 9 years, and a duet by Anwen-Angharad and Manon Nicholls.

The 7 to 9 year group received an award from the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Bala this year, for their performance and were placed third in their category.

The event raised £506 to date. The next event is on Sunday, August 17 at Court Colman Hotel, Pen-y-fai, CF31 4NG with an afternoon tea and guest speaker Lee Jukes from Bridge FM on 'My Decade in Local Radio'. Tickets are £8, available at the door but would appreciate a phone call or e-mail to secure a place to M Major (01656 664105) or Court Colman (01656 720212).

Mari Major

The Stroke Club says 'thank you'

WE would just like to say a huge thank you to the local community and visitors to Porthcawl for supporting the Porthcawl Stroke Club.

The Porthcawl Stroke Club's annual collection never ceases to surprise! It is just wonderful to chat to local people and visitors to Porthcawl who freely give donations towards running this important facility.

The Stroke Club is a self-help group, supported by devoted volunteers who never gain financial reward – Mr Ray Cross (secretary) Mr Keith Duggan, (chairman) Miss Miriam Barker (committee member).

The lives of hundreds of stroke survivors are enriched, friendships are made and best of all there is a life to enjoy. Our gratitude also goes to many volunteers and supporters of the club.

A speedy recovery is wished for members who are unable at present to attend the club through ill health. They are: Esther Beresford, John Phillips, Maisie Manley, Victoria and Derrick Critchley, Ken York, Sylvia and Bill Newman, Gwyn Rogers, Gwyn Llewlyn and Ray Stead.

Anyone wishing to join our happy group, should contact Keith Duggan on (01656) 773376, or Ray Cross (01656) 782190.

Porthcawl Stroke Club.

A 1,000K RUN HELPS TO HIGHLIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FLYING THE WELSH FLAG
...Aled, Melisa, and Tom.

RECENTLY, two ex-Cowbridge students ran 1,000 km in 10 days across Europe, to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Emma Gooding and her sister Melisa, joined by Aled Power and Tom Cronin, from Cardiff, joined 12 others to start the journey from Sofia, Bulgaria, in July, running in relay to Rome.

Emma was responsible for organising the run, as part of her work with Oasis Brussels, whose mission is to help victims of human trafficking and raise awareness within the European Commission and Parliament.

There were many adventures and challenges en route, including torrential rain, a broken gearbox and rerouting around Macedonia!

Emma will present the adventure and talk about people trafficking at Costa Coffee, Cowbridge, from 7pm on Wednesday, August 20.

In the 10 days, the group had many experiences. One highlight was an interview by Albanian TV for 20 minutes, where Emma was able to warn young women of how easy it is to become coerced into being trafficked, followed by further interviews on Vision Plus.

Following university, Emma has worked with the Welsh Government anti-human trafficking department and then moved to work with Oasis in Brussels in October 2013.

TASTE OF ITALY

THE Italian food market is back in Bridgend county borough this week between 11am – 5pm each day.

It is in Maesteg's Market Square today (August 14) before spending Friday and Saturday (August 15 and 16) on Adare Street in Bridgend; finally docking in Porthcawl on John Street on Sunday, August 17.

FREE Demonstrations

Thursday 14th August 2014
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Tractor boys give charity rides at Nash Point

BLUE SKIES AND BLUE SEAS AT NASH POINT!

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin recently headed for Nash Point to put some of their vintage tractors on show.

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PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Local businessman turned detective to catch fraudster

A BARRY businessman who hired out vans "suspected a plot" when a customer called him to say he had been involved in a collision when driving one of his vehicles.

Christopher Baker's actions led to a man and his stepsister being sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court for their involvement in a staged road traffic accident.

Steven Phillips (62), unemployed, of Powys View, Barry, and Terrina Downes (57), of Glanfa Dafydd, Barry, each admitted a charge of fraud at Cardiff Crown Court.

Phillips, described by Recorder Paul Lewis QC as the prime mover, and who had recruited Downes to assist him, was sentenced to a community order involving 200 hours unpaid work.

Downes also received a community order involving supervision for six months and 100 hours unpaid work.

Phillips was ordered to pay Mr Baker £1,000 compensation and Downes must pay £500.

Said the Recorder: "The circumstances of this fraud demonstrate a degree of foresight and planning. Fortunately, this fraudulent claim was not to succeed."

He said there was real public concern about the false stating of road traffic accidents which drove up premiums for honest motorists.

Prosecutor David Thomas said Mr Baker was a young businessman who rented out five vans from his premises in Barry.

Phillips hired a van overnight on January 9, taking it at 4.45pm.

At 7.10pm, Mr Baker received a telephone call from Downes to say there had been an accident and Downes' vehicle had been hit from behind on Ffordd-y-Millennium, Barry, by a van driven by Phillips.

Mr Baker became suspicious because Downes had not hired the vehicle. He tried to contact Phillips, but was unable to.

Unknown to the defendant, there was a tracker on the van and Mr Baker found the parked vehicle with damage.

Phillips later said: "I am in shock, I'm in Cardiff."

Mr Baker made more enquiries and suspected a plot.

He discovered the van had been in a secluded area near Barry dock for four minutes. He went to the area and found debris from the van and believed it was the location of the collision.

A week later, Phillips filled in an accident report form saying he had driven into the back of Downes' vehicle, and it was his fault. The insurance company confirmed and investigated, and it was reported to the police.

Phillips told officers he had been moving furniture and it was a legitimate accident. He said it had taken place on Ffordd-y-Millennium. Downes also said it was there.

She was later prescribed painkillers by her doctor and said she had probably received a whiplash injury.

The court heard that Mr Baker had suffered a £2,555 loss, and had sleepless nights and consulted a doctor because of stress.

He also said he believed he had been targeted and that the behaviour of Phillips was callous.

The court heard that Phillips had convictions for 82 offences, including making a false £4,600 insurance claim for the loss of jewellery.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "His antecedent history does him no credit. He became involved in this because of his financial predicament.

"There was a lack of sophistication and he fears prison. His last offence was 10 years ago."

Solicitor Adam Sharp, for Downes, said: "She played a lesser role and her motive was not financial. She acknowledges it was an extremely foolish enterprise. The actual damage to her vehicle cost £300.

"In the past," he added, "she had overcome tragedy and the case has had a salutary effect on her."

Each was ordered to pay £60 victim surcharge.

Man is jailed for 'despicable and cruel' theft

AN elderly widower was "devastated" when his next door neighbour, whom he regarded as a friend, stole approximately £6,000 from his life savings which he had put aside for his funeral expenses.

The victim, Ronald Watkins, 87, broke down in tears when he discovered the theft, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Simon Orton, 52, was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to a charge of burglary.

Recorder Paul Lewis QC told Orton, of Verona Place, Barry: "I have no doubt that your offending was pre-planned and you targeted your neighbour. It was despicable and cruel."

He added: "The offence was aggravated by it being a breach of trust."

Prosecutor David Thomas said Mr Watkins had lived at his address for 52 years. Orton lived next door.

On May 22, Mr Watkins went to his bedroom to collect money from a box where he kept his life savings, which he had put aside for his funeral.

When he opened the box, said Mr Thomas, he became distraught and broke down in tears, because all that remained was £1,200.

He contacted the police and his family, and shortly after, officers spoke to Orton, who was smelling of cannabis, and the allegation was put to him.

He said: "Yes, I took it, it's over there."

Underneath the cushion, the police found £480 and in Orton's wallet was £20.

Orton apologised and when he was taken from his home, saw Mr Watkins and said: "Sorry, Ron."

He said he had known his neighbour for 23 years and had actually decorated the bedroom from where he stole the money over a period of five weeks.

He said he had no money at the time, a relationship had broken down and he had spent it on food, cannabis and alcohol.

Mr Watkins indicated he had taken 10 years to save the cash, and in the past had loaned the defendant money to buy wine.

He said his reaction was that he was "totally devastated" by the experience.

Adam Sharp, for Orton, said: "He is selling his house for £40,000 and there is already an interested buyer. He expects to repay Mr Watkins and he does not wish to remain in the area.

"He was always forthright with the police. His remorse is genuine and he feels utterly ashamed. It was totally out of character.

"At the time, he was drinking a great deal and smoking cannabis daily. It was a heavy fall from grace."

Orton was ordered to pay Mr Watkins £5,300 compensation and a victim surcharge of £100.

Open invite to flower festival at Llantwit

St Illtud's Flower Festival will take place over the Bank Holiday weekend (August 23-25).

The event traditionally takes place every other year in Llantwit Major and 2014 is set to be as special as all the others.

"The theme this time is 'Countries of the World'. Local groups and organisations have selected a country and their flower arrangements will be displayed around the ancient church.

"At various times, as they wander through the church, visitors will be able to enjoy an informal programme of music.

"In addition to seeing the beautiful floral displays, visitors to the flower festival can take the opportunity to visit, or indeed revisit, the recently-opened Galilee Chapel with its displays of Celtic stones. Last month, it was the focus of the Royal visit of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, much to the delight of local school children and residents who lined the streets of the town.

"The local art and crafts group will also be displaying their creative work in the West Church, so there'll be plenty to see. Furthermore, the usual delicious array of homemade cakes and refreshments will be available, courtesy of the many hard working ladies of St Illtuds!

"So do come and visit the flower festival and bring your friends and family members.

There will be a programme available; the £2.50 purchase price will be shared between the church and Help for Heroes."

The festival will be open for viewing from 10am to 4.30pm – normal worship will take place during the festival with the 10am Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 24.

Evening entertainment will be in the form of a Songs of Praise at 6pm at St Illtud's Church on Sunday, led by Alan Bourne and RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.

On Monday, an Evensong service will be held at St James Church, Wick, where a flower festival, in parallel, is also being held.

For more information, contact the Parish Office on 01446 792439.

Group lays plans for town events

LLANTWIT MAJOR Events Committee has organised seven events in just over a year and is offering help to people who want support in getting their event off the ground.

The chairman, Byron Evans, said: "Last year, we arranged the Victorian Fayre, the Christmas light up – we've also organised an ABBA night, a fashion show, the latest summer fair and now the Help for Heroes barbecue at the rugby club this Sunday.

"Money raised has gone back in to future events and we have also generated funds for charities such as Breast Cancer Care.

"We hope that the events are improving the town's profile and, with continuity of organisation, things will get more ambitious."

Individuals, local organisations and Llantwit people have responded enthusiastically to the committee's efforts over the last 14 months.

Byron explained that the events committee had considered the possibility of marking the World War One centenary, but it was conscious that commemoration rather than celebration was appropriate.

In the end the committee decided a Help for Heroes barbecue, helping current Service people, was a good idea.

Byron made this offer: "If there are people in the town who have an idea for an event, we are more than happy to talk to them, and go ahead with research to see if it is possible.

"We are desperate for a good website, so if there is anyone in the town who could help build one, we would be delighted to hear from them."

He said he also wanted to take the opportunity to pay tribute to a key volunteer, the late Carolyn Risby: "She was always a massive help – particularly in the early phases when we were struggling to raise money.

"If she could help, she would. She also assisted other local organisations such as Major Music and the Lions. Her passing leaves a real void."

Pensioner spotted scam just in time

A pensioner told The GEM how she had a narrow escape, after being telephoned by people making a tempting financial offer.

The woman explained: "On Monday (August 4) I received a call from people stating that residents in Peterswell Road were paying too much money for their water. They added that I was paying too much for my gas and electricity as well."

The 85-year-old, who lives in Barry, spoke to a man and a woman who told her that they could organise on-going savings on her utility bills. They claimed in the long run she could save thousands of pounds.

"They told me all I had to do was make a payment to them of £240 and they would do the work to save money on my bills. They even gave me their telephone number and address."

This allayed the woman's initial concerns and she made the 'necessary' arrangements.

But the woman, who due to her advanced years told The GEM she does not wish to be identified, said her brother-in-law who lives in Fairwater, warned her it was a fraud and that he'd paid over £280 in a similar situation which he managed to get back.

The pensioner added: "I went down to Barclays Bank on Holton Road who stopped any payment. They were brilliant and reassured me access to the account was blocked. I think it is terrible that people are receiving calls like this. The people I spoke to were very plausible."

*If anyone has concerns about suspect calls over the phone, they can speak to Vale trading standards by calling **01446 700111;** or contact local police on **101.***

WHAT'S ON / *in brief*

Aberkenfig fete

ON Saturday, August 16 Aberkenfig Welfare Hall stages Bridgend Castle Players' summer fete from 11am – 5pm.

Stalls include Name The Bear, tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac, tuck shop, cake stall, Guess the Weight of the Cake, crafts, children's games, entertainment, children's fancy dress competition (50p entry).

BAVO funding

BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) has started free monthly drop-in funding advice sessions for voluntary and community groups.

The next sessions will be from 2pm – 4pm on August 20, September 11 and October 9 in the BAVO offices on Commercial Street, Maesteg.

Call BAVO on 01656 810400 or email: bavo@bavo.org.uk.

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No local family was unaffected

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR AT CENOTAPH

The War Memorial, St Brides Major.

VILLAGERS from St Brides Major, Southerndown, Ogmore by Sea and Ewenny gathered at the Cenotaph in St Brides Major on Monday (August 4) for a vigil service to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War.

Organised by St Brides Major Community Council, the service was led by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and priest in charge of Ewenny and St Brides Major.

The hymns were accompanied by the Ogmore Vale Silver Band conducted by Alice Jones, which also played music after the service. The Last Post was played by Roger Lewis on bugle.

The Bible reading was given by Margaret Rowlands, of the Mothers' Union and poems were read by Cerys May of the Guides, Meriel James of the Women's Institute, and Peter Simon of St Brides Major Community Council.

The Exhortation ...*'They shall grow not old'*...was read by Gwyn Davies, and the prayers led by Hazel Norfolk, parish reader.

In his address, Fr Philip emphasised that this was not a time for celebration, for nationalistic songs, flag-waving and grand parades: "This evening is a time for reflection, as we particularly think of the 19 men and women from St Brides Major, Southerndown and Ogmore by Sea, and the six men from Ewenny, who gave their lives for their country in the First World War."

He continued: "As we reflect on what was being unleashed 100 years ago tonight, we are mindful of the sacrifice made by so many to ensure what they hoped would be a better world. We are mindful of the effect those four dark years had on so many lives in the country and in these communities of the Vale.

"As we reflect on the past, we resolve to do better for the future, knowing that we can work and live together in peace – as long as we learn the lessons of the past."

Fr Philip emphasised the devastating effect on what was then only a small farming community of some 300 people, when 25 of their young men and women did not return: "No family was unaffected."

Some of those from Ewenny and St Brides Major served with the 38th Welsh Division of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and took part in one of the bloodiest conflicts on the Somme – the battle of Mametz Wood in July 1916.

In their honour, the hymn 'Aberystwyth' was sung at the service, as the lads from the villages sang that hymn by Joseph Parry as they marched into battle.

Some of those from the villages served in the Glamorgan Yeomanry and fought in the Battle of Gaza in 1917. There is a direct connection between St Brides Major and Gaza today, as Fr Philip has visited Gaza many times in his work as co-ordinator of a fund which provides a mobile dental clinic for the Shija'ia district of Gaza, shelled in the recent conflict. He has visited the British Cemetery in Gaza in which are the graves of many soldiers from the 53rd Welsh Division and the 74th Yeomanry Division in which men from villages of the Vale served.

As the names of those on the war memorials in St Brides Major and Ewenny were read out, St Bridget's church bell was tolled, and 25 candles extinguished, one for each of those from the villages killed in the First World War.

The Two Minutes' Silence was kept, wreaths were laid, and the new floodlights switched on.

Following the service, refreshments were provided in the church hall by the Women's Institute.

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Archer Mat wins record third world championship

LLANTWIT MAJOR-born archer Mathew Symmonds has written himself into the record books after he won the IFAA World Field Archery Championships for a record third time.

The tournament took place near Sioux City, South Dakota in the United States. Symmonds also took gold at the 2008 World Championships in Namibia, and again in 2010 in Germany, and won the silver medal in Argentina in 2012.

This latest victory makes the local archer the first to win three World Championships in the Recurve Freestyle division.

The tournament consisted of five gruelling rounds of field archery which test the archers both in terms of accuracy and endurance. Mat started off the tournament well by taking the lead during round one.

However, round two saw torrential rain, which is rare in South Dakota during August. While Mat coped well with the weather conditions, the rain caused a technical problem with his bow which caused his scoring rate to drop off, allowing second placed Rait Ots, of Estonia, to narrow his lead.

Mat Symmonds on the podium.

Symmonds came back well in round three to increase his lead again. Round four saw temperatures of over 90 degrees fahrenheit and 100 per cent humidity which caused some of the competitors to flag.

However, Symmonds, who has a history of performing well in very hot weather, used the conditions to his advantage, building a huge score during the penultimate round.

With similar conditions in the fifth and final round, the Welsh archer again pushed the lead out to land the championship in spectacular fashion.

After the tournament, Mat commented: "I am really pleased with my performance this time around. I was aware of the high temperatures and humidity that are typical in this part of the world in the summer and I trained hard to ensure that I was ready for this and able to maintain my scoring average.

"Everything went to plan and I am really pleased to be bringing the gold medal home for Wales!"

Mat began shooting in 1984 aged 10 and won his first international cap for Wales at 13. Since then he has gone on to make 158 international appearances, captained the Welsh team 80 times between 2004 and 2012 and has won 26 international titles, making him the most successful Welsh archer of all time.

Throughout this time, Mat has remained a member of Llantwit Major Archery Club, where his archery career began. He will next be in action at the GNAS Welsh Field Archery Championships in September at Ton Pentre, where he will defend his Welsh Championship title.

Stacey Richards

Historic fair at St Mary Hill

CENTURIES-old St Mary Hill Fair will be held on the common between Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw on Bank Holiday Monday, August 25 from 10am until 4pm.

It attracts traders from all parts of the country who sell horses, poultry, fine china, leather goods.

Each year the fair supports a local charity and in 2013 the Bridgend branch of Multiple Sclerosis was given £3,000 towards research and help for its 100 members.

This year's charity will be the Stroke Association Community Group in Bridgend county.

The organisers of the fair are Coity Wallia Board of Conservators. Parking on the common costs £5 per vehicle and two large car parks will be open.

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PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL LOOKS BACK ON THE SUMMER TERM

ONE of the annual highlights at the end of every summer term is the strawberry tea party, organised by year-12 pupils, as part of their fundraising campaign for the Breast Cancer charity.

This year's event did not disappoint, raising £900. Pupils, staff and members of the community all enjoyed the wonderful range of cakes and other strawberry delights.

Another annual event in the sixth form calendar is the sponsored walk to raise money for the sixth form fund. If you happened to see some some very strangely dressed people recently between Merthyr Mawr and Porthcawl, you weren't imagining things. Thank you to all those who donated.

Many thanks to Staedtler UK for sponsoring the the Bruck Payne event for sixth formers. The aim was to complete a self analysis using the Myers Briggs self-awareness psychometric tool and a programme of emotional intelligence workshops designed to optimise pupil performance. A different but very interesting experience for all those who took part.

During last term, members of the sixth form also spent time attending conferences for advice regarding their UCAS applications and also an Oxbridge Student Conference at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea.

Another annual event in our summer calendar is the art department's summer show which took place on June 30. GCSE, AS and A Level coursework and examination work was on display. Pupils, parents and staff who came to see the show were very complimentary about the quality and variety of work produced by the school's talented and hard-working artists.

In addition a slideshow of this work is now on display on screen in the science resources area. Art department staff, Mrs Williams and Mrs Kavanagh were delighted to see so many people in the exhibition and look forward to doing the show again next summer. Members of the Senior Citizen Club also enjoyed their visit to the exhibition. Twenty pieces were selected by specialist crafts to be entered into their quarterly competition, and this work can be viewed online on the specialist crafts website in the art gallery.

During the summer term, we had a very busy and successful two weeks of learning core activities. Here's some information about a few of the activities that were organised.

During 'Dylan Thomas Day' years 7 and 8 pupils were asked to draw an illustration of one of the characters from 'Under Milk Wood'. They were asked to read the descriptions, and then produce an illustration in the style of Sir Peter Blake. It was a really successful day and the resulting drawings are now on display in the Welsh department.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed three days with the PE department, experiencing a wide range of activities. Pupils based in the learning resource centre also enjoyed a wonderful day out again this year at the 'Local Aid Schools Challenge' at Gnoll Park, Neath. This event is a multi agency event aimed at helping young people with additional needs. It was a fantastic experience for all pupils (and staff!) involved in activities involving team work, problem solving and confidence building.

Year-8 pupils spent a whole day with a 40-strong team of American visitors, experiencing a wide range of activities, from line dancing to lessons on slavery.

Careers Wales Team Enterprise were in school working with pupils in planning an event and taking part in a *Dragon's Den* style presentation. Local businesses also took part, acting as mentors and 'dragons'.

The 'From Page to Stage' screenwriting project was launched during the summer programme. It was a very exciting moment when year-8 were sent special good luck messages from a range of celebrities for this playwriting competition.

'From Page to Stage' is a joint venture between drama and English and the whole of year-8 are currently busy writing their own plays which will be judged and performed in the new academic year. The project started with a very busy launch day and included personalised video messages from Welsh playwright Frank Vickery and Hollywood film star Michael Sheen. Mrs Smith, head of drama is very excited by the project.

"This is a brilliant opportunity for all our year-8 pupils to write their own play and to see it performed live. I called in a few favours from some old friends to try to inspire the pupils and it was great to see their faces when Michael Sheen popped up on the screen talking about Pencoed and their writing". Good Luck year-8! We look forward to the finished plays!

Congratulations to Mrs Sharon Davies and the whole learning core team for gaining Accredited Centre status for the Wider Key Skills and successful submissions for WBQ Advanced and Intermediate Diplomas. There was also no let-up for the busy PE department during the summer term. Pencoed Comprehensive girls excelled in their sporting activities this term. The girls' rounders teams from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have done very well and there has also been a great interest shown for girls' football with teams from years 7, 7/8 mixed, and years 9/10 mixed.

Two girls' cricket teams from year-8 were entered into a cricket tournament organised by Cricket Wales at the Radyr Cricket Club. Following only two coaching sessions the teams were placed fifth and sixth out of 12 teams and just missed out from getting through to the semi finals and the chance to represent Wales. Sixty girls from yeas 7, 8 and 9 also participated in the AYPD Bridgend Girls Games.

They all had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities which they thoroughly enjoyed. The PE department wish to thank Miss Kirsty McColl for her contribution to the department and wish her all the best in her new role at Brynteg Comprehensive from September.

With the recent appointment of Dean Ronan as rugby development officer at the school we look forward to seeing increased interest in rugby by pupils and also a girls' rugby team. Also on the rugby front, our year-10 rugby players recently officiated in the WRU/Ospreys Bridgend Primary Schools Touch Tournament in Rest Bay.

Year-9 pupils recently competed in the county athletics at Leckwith in Cardiff – the big result of the day being Brennig Pascoe gaining second in the 1,500m. Well done to all those who took part.

We also had an outstanding Summer Sports Day, won by Llywelyn House.

Other sporting successes achieved out of school by our pupils include the golfer Ella Griffiths, year-11, winner of the Glamorgan Girls' Championship as well as the Ladies' title she's already won. Evan Jones, year-7, competed in the national competition for Tumbling gymnastics in Coventry. Evan achieved the highest score throughout and came first in his age category – gaining entry to the British Finals. Congratulations to both.

Congratulations also to those involved in Tang Soo Doo Karate: Megan Lewis, year-7 has been promoted to Black Belt and Charlotte Morgan, year-11 has been promoted to Second Dan Black Belt.

World Cup Fever didn't miss the school either. Just before the final, a World Cup fun day was organised by Rhys Young (year-11, sports leader) with the help of Jack Harvey and the Sports Board which include Sam Costello, Rosie Pope, Dan Morris, Jenna Dyckhoff, Megan Griffiths and Rhiannon Evans. Over £300 was raised for the school.

Earlier on in the competition, registration forms had got into the World Cup spirit having adopted a team from the competition, decorating their classes accordingly and wearing their team colours for the fun day.

Rhys organised various competitions and activities for the fun day which included a penalty shoot out – Brazil would have been proud! The winner of the registration form competition was LAW, the winner of the penalty shoot-out was Morgan Howells Year-9 with 3/3 v Mr Thompson (goalie extraordinaire!), winning a chocolate golden boot. The winner of the Crossbar Challenge was Rhys Young with 1/3 hitting the bar, but the Budweiser football went to Dan Morris for his spectacular 'after-competition' attempt!

Over 20 of our year-10 pupils recently qualified for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and nine of our year-12 pupils also took part in a three day practice Silver Expedition ready for the qualifying expedition next term.

The latter were rewarded with well deserved ice-creams by a member of the public who'd received assistance from the group in getting out of a roadside ditch! The conscientious students also refused the driver's offer of a lift to the next checkpoint! Well done all of those who took part in both expeditions.

Away from sporting activities, during English lessons, year-8 pupils studied the topic of 'Animals' looking at specific areas such as badger culling, poetry, animal narrative and WWF campaigns. While studying the WWF adverts Miss Casson's two English groups became interested in endangered animals and really wanted to get involved with saving them.

As a result, they asked if they could adopt an animal as a class. Class 8-4 decided to adopt an Orang-utan, which they named Ciao, and Class 8-6 decided to adopt a dolphin, which they called Kevin Cuddles!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

PENCOED'S PUPILS RISING TO THE CHALLENGE – *IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!*

During May, students from years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge set by the UK Mathematics Trust. The challenge was very difficult and involved solving a range of mathematics problems. 'Best in School' Shannon Phelps achieved a high score of 80 – a brilliant result, well done Shannon!

The following pupils each gained a certificate: Shannon Phelps – best in school, best in year-8 and gold; Kali Morgan – silver; Cerys Johnson, Rhys Bending and Rosie Pope – bronze; and Emma Powson – best in year-7. A huge congratulation to all of the pupils who took part.

Over 98,000 students from across the UK had entered the Junior Maths Challenge with the top 10 per cent receiving a Gold certificate, the next 20 per cent Silver and the next 30 per cent Bronze. Techniquest also visited the maths department carrying out numeracy-rich workshops for 240 pupils.

Congratulations to our stAR Reader Millionaires! This year all pupils in years 7 – 9 have participated in our reading programme called stAR. Pupils have really enjoyed reading and quizzing, which is reflected in a total 1,609 books (28,044,291 words) which have been read and successfully quizzed on which is fantastic. At present, we have three stAR reader millionaires: Rhiannon Svenson, year-7 who has read 1,318, 132 words and completed 33 quizzes; Jevan King, year-8 who has read 1,333,272 words and completed 44 quizzes, and Cai Wall who is now totalling 2,071,089 words and completed 39 quizzes. Special congratulations to these pupils!

The MFL Department have been busy brushing up their language skills. During the weekend of the spring bank holiday, 35 students visited Paris and the surrounding area and an excellent time was had by all.

Students were able to practise their French and experience the culture. Visits included: Château de Versailles, a Seine river boat cruise, a sightseeing tour of all the main attractions of the city and a fantastic day at Disneyland. Another group of pupils have just returned from a visit to Barcelona – a wonderful cultural experience again for all those concerned.

Pencoed Comprehensive's dynamic drama department just doesn't stop! Clubs, auditions, rehearsals continue throughout the year for all the different perfomances produced. Recently both the drama and music departments have been busy with four packed-out performances of their latest school production which this year was *Little Shop of Horrors!*

The main character was a little unusual as it was a rather large puppet that grew and grew before eating the whole cast and even some of the audience! Mrs Kay Smith, who is head of drama and performing arts at Pencoed Comprehensive had chosen the show for the fast paced black comedy and fantastic rock'n roll, doowap and motown style music.

The atmosphere was amazing each evening, with the enthusiasm of the energetic performers being highly infectious as the audience joined in with the clapping. The show had standing ovations every evening.

All aspects of the show were extremely professional and everyone who performed or took part in any aspect of the show should be extremely proud of their achievements. The show was a result of months and months of hard work – well done to everyone who was involved.

Ellie Jones, year-10, one of the dancers in the show has just been accepted by the Welsh National Dance Company. Many congratulations.

As well as a man-eating plant, the drama studio has been hijacked by a group of boisterous, jolly singing pirates. *Points Pirates* was the latest original production written and produced by Miss Rebecca Lewis and was based on the school's positive points system.

The lower school drama club performed the show for year-6 as part of the transition visits and it was another successful production. The drama department is very sad to be losing Miss Lewis at the end of this year and would like to thank her for all her hard work and contribution to drama.

Lower school drama will certainly miss her and we would like to wish her all the very best for her new job in Heol Ddu School.

The end of the summer term can also be quite a sad time as we bid farewell to staff who are leaving for pastures new – be they work or retirement-related pastures! Mrs Helen Gwynne-Kinsey, head of RE leaves us after being with us for 24 years in total. Six years as RE teacher initially, and then returning as head of RE for 18 years. Mr Andrew Pearce, has been with us as RE Teacher for 23 years as well as most recently head of the sixth form. Mr Pearce is joining the WJEC as a Subject Officer. Paul Webber (teacher of design and technology and Duke of Edinburgh leader) is also leaving and will be joining Brynteg Comprehensive.

Non-teaching staff who have either just left or are leaving at the end of term after long years of service are Mrs Ruth Hendry, Mrs Julie Hopkin, and Mr John Williams. Miss Amy Williams also leaves the learning resource centre to start a PGCE course.

Other teaching staff leaving who were with the school on short term or temporary contracts are: Miss Kirsty McColl, Mr Daniel Spear, Mr Dafydd Keyse, Miss Rebecca Lewis, and Miss Francis Mainwaring.

Good luck and best wishes to you all for the future.

Congratulations to the following members of staff on their recent internal appointments – Mr David Owen as head of 6th form, Mrs Sharon Davies as head of learning core, Miss Kate Drakeford as deputy head of learning core, Mrs Gill Spicer as head of Owain, and Mrs Cath Rees as head of RE.

We also welcome new staff to school, namely: Mr Carl Muller as teacher of mathematics (maternity cover), Ms Philomena O'Kane, as teacher of MFL (maternity cover), Ms Rachel Morgan as teacher of mathematics, and Mr Dean Ronan as pupil support/rugby development officer. The latter is a new post jointly funded by the WRU, with the aim of increasing rugby participation at all levels for both boys and girls. Exciting times!

Celebrations at the end of term included a lovely Record of Achievement assembly for year-11 pupils. They'd also arranged a Prom at Coed y Mwstwr. The sixth form prom was held at the Parc Plaza in Cardiff.

Both events went very well and we now look forward to seeing all the pupils again on results days – A and AS today (Thursday, August 14) and GCSE on Thursday, August 21.

Looking forward to September, the Senior Citizens Lunches start back on Tuesday, September 9. Lunches are held in the school during term time at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

If you haven't attended these lunches before, please just come along to reception. Our sixth formers and canteen staff will be ready to welcome you.

The first meeting of FoPCS (Friends of Pencoed Comprehensive School) will be held at 6pm on Wednesday evening September 17. All existing and new parents are welcome, as well as anyone else from the local community aged over 16 who would be interested in supporting FoPCS's fund raising activities for the school. 'Friends of' have enjoyed a busy end of term with the carnival and the school show.

School staff and pupils are very appreciative of the time and effort made by members of FoPCS. Thank you also to the large number of local businesses for their great generosity in providing raffle prizes.

A special welcome to new year-7 pupils who'll be joining us in September. Pupils from the feeder primary schools spent two days in the school recently familiarising themselves with the school site, staff and routines.

Parents also visited the school for an information evening so hopefully, any concerns that pupils (and parents!) may have about going to the 'big school' will have been allayed by these visits.

We look forward to seeing all pupils in school on Wednesday. September 3 – refreshed after the summer holidays, and ready for work!

LINDA HARPWOOD

ANGER AT NATO SCHOOL DISRUPTION

REGIONAL South Wales Central Tory AM, Andrew RT Davies, has criticised the Vale Council's decision to tell local schools to close early in the first week of the new term, due to the NATO summit taking place 25 miles away in Newport, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

Mr Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservatives, in a strongly-worded statement, called it a "horrible misjudgement by the Vale Council and Chris Elmore".

Coun Elmore is the cabinet member for education, and is also Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate in next year's general election.

Andrew RT Davies said: "While it is fantastic that we are holding such a significant event in a city in Wales, the idea it will impact on the schooling of our children due to pressure on roads and local transport in areas such as Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major is nothing short of bonkers. The ramifications of these early closures will wreak havoc to parents and employers, many of whom will be disrupted as they will have to take time off work.

"It is also an important period of the academic year where many pupils are settling into new schools where the least disruption possible is required.

"I have written to the South Wales Police to see what advice was given to the Vale Council, especially as other local authorities are not taking such action when they are involved in key events, such as receptions, visits and dinners for NATO delegates.

"From the information I have received, only a limited number of delegates will be using Cardiff Airport as a point of access for the summit and as Wales Office Minister and Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has made abundantly clear, this decision far exceeds the advice issued by the NATO planning unit."

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services at the Vale Council, responded: "Unlike Cardiff and Newport, where a number of schools are completely closed, there are no plans for schools in the Vale to close during the NATO summit. The council always seeks to avoid school closures and our advice to headteachers has prioritised the importance of keeping schools open to pupils. Given the scale of the event and role of Cardiff Airport, there will inevitably be disruption to the transport network in the Vale. A meeting to discuss how to minimise the impact of this on pupils in Vale took place in July between schools, a local authority officer and the local police.

"At the meeting, advice for minimising disruption was agreed with local police and then circulated to all headteachers. The agreed advice was to implement staggered opening times for schools in the Vale.

"Three possible options for minimising disruption to pupils' education and alleviating possible stress on the transport network were discussed. The options of closing schools altogether, or operating three days of teacher training were dismissed.

"There was a consensus that staggered opening was the best course of action.

"The action taken by council officers has ensured that all pupils in the county will be able to attend school during the summit," he pointed out.

Conservative MP Alun Cairns, who has also been critical of the arrangements, said: "I want the Vale to benefit from the wonderful opportunity a NATO summit brings, but constituents deserve better decision-making from their council and what must be done now is to ensure that any disruption is kept to an absolute minimum."

Glamorgan Physiotherapy Clinic's open evening welcomes everyone!

THE Glamorgan Physiotherapy Clinic opened in January 2013 at 42D Penybont Road, Pencoed, with a waiting room, one treatment room and Nadine Manfred as physiotherapist.

Eighteen months later, it now boasts additional clinic rooms and a multi-disciplinary team. An open evening on Wednesday, August 20 from 5pm-9pm is an invitation to all – from health professionals, to sports people and the general public.

A spokesperson said; "We want people to come and see our modern, welcoming clinic and meet the team, who will be able to explain the various treatments they offer – from Lipotripsy for cellulite – to acupuncture for pain relief.

"There will be special offers, including free consultations available for those attending. Booking is not necessary – call in between 5pm and 9pm."

For further information, call 01656 760130.

CYCLE RIDE TO RAISE FUNDS

ON August 15, 11 novice cyclists and their support vehicle will set off from Lands End on a journey of over 1,000 miles, hoping to arrive in John O'Groats 14 days later, on Aug 28.

The cyclists have received huge support from family, friends and local businesses and have already raised over £6,000 in the build up to the event.

***The team comprises**: Justin Hostettler-Davies, Michael Thorne, David Lloyd, Jayne Dingle, Mark Floyd, Gary Cox, Adrian Hooper, Jon Price, Lance Thomas, Kevin Ridge, Ian Henry and two volunteering support vehicle drivers (Lynda Mitchell and Steve Dingle).*

They have chosen to carry out this challenge in the hope that it can raise much needed awareness of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and the devastating impact it has on people and their families.

The MND Association is the only national charity in Wales, England and Northern Ireland dedicated to improve care and support for people affected by MND, fund and promote research, and campaign and raise awareness, so the needs of people with MND are addressed by society. All funds raised from the challenge will be going towards the new South Wales Care Network for Motor Neurone Disease (MND), which is committed to funding £340,000 for the Network over the next four years.

A number of multi-disciplinary MND clinics have been set up. Bridgend is one of the areas they are focusing on.

The group would welcome any support you can give. Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/cycle4mnd. Updates and progress on the challenge can be found at www.cycle4mnd.com.

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BRAVE KANSIRAY APPEALS TO PUBLIC...
'Come race with me for Kidney Wales!'

ABOVE: Summer after her first kidney had been removed.

A SIX-YEAR old girl from Ogmore Vale, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 14 months, is urging local people to join her in this year's Cardiff 10K and 2K races.

Summer Kansiray is recovering from a kidney transplant after being diagnosed with cancer in both organs.

Having been supported by the Kidney Wales Foundation, she is urging people to sign up to Cardiff 10K and the 2K fun run, which she is taking part in, to raise funds for the charity.

When Summer was just 14 months old, her mother, Joanne Kansiray, could see and feel a lump on her torso, but was told by four doctors in the space of 35 hours, that her daughter was fine.

Joanne didn't give up, and travelled to Bridgend hospital right away, where a doctor noticed the lump without Joanne prompting him, *a Foundation spokeswoman reports*.

Summer was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumour, a rare form of kidney cancer, in her left kidney.

She endured six months of treatment at Cardiff's University Hospital of Wales, before having the organ removed. Summer relapsed and the cancer returned in her right kidney six weeks later, which also had to be taken out.

Before she could have a transplant for the second kidney, Summer spent two and a half years without kidneys, on a dialysis machine, in the Kidney Wales-funded Children's Kidney Centre at the University Hospital of Wales for between 12 and 14 hours every night. She was allowed to drink only 240ml of water every 24 hours.

After receiving a new kidney in 2012, recently Summer's body has been trying to reject the kidney transplant, and after receiving treatment in hospital, she is now at home and on medication to stop the rejection going any further.

Summer's mother, Joanne Kansiray, is employed as a healthcare assistant, but has had to take time out to care for her daughter through this difficult time; care that she couldn't give without the out-of-hours support from the Kidney Wales Foundation.

Joanne said: "Finding out that Summer had cancer of the kidney was a huge shock. In the past, we have been faced with the possibility that she may not pull through, and I cannot express how hard that was to deal with.

"My daughter has proved how unbelievably strong a little girl she is and I am very proud of her. The best thing I can do is raise awareness to thank Kidney Wales for all their support and encourage everyone, who hasn't already, to sign up to the Cardiff 10K."

This year's race will take place on Sunday, September 7, with the Cardiff10K taking place at 10am and the 2K family run at 9.15am. Organised by Kidney Wales, the race is one of the top ten road races in the UK, and sees top athletes running alongside celebrities and members of the public for the cause.

Despite Summer's problems she aims to take part in the 2k fun run for the third year in a row. In 2012, her father Ekrem pushed her along the course in a wheelchair and in 2013 Summer walked it with her aunt Michelle, coming in proudly in last place.

This year, her aunt Nikki is coming over from Jersey, especially to walk the distance with Summer. Nikki will take part in the full 10K race straight after they cross the finish line.

To find out more about the race, to sign up as a team, or to help raise money and awareness for Kidney Wales, visit the Cardiff 10K website at: ***www.cardiff10K.com*** *or call* ***(029) 2034 3951.***

Summer in training for the Cardiff fundraising event!

Call for more responders

THIRTY volunteers average 20,000 hours annually, providing seven days a week cover for 365 days a year, and deal with just over 5,000 patients over a 10-year period...

Those are the impressive figures surrounding a group that began in June 2004 with eight members of the public completing their training to become Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) Community First Responders (CFR)

By September 2004, they had become active as a CFR team in the Barry community.

When a patient faces a serious emergency, every second counts, and a simple helping hand from a Community First Responder can make a vital difference to their lives. When a 999 call is made, certain types of calls can mean that CFRs are alerted by one of WAST's three Clinical Contact Centres (CCC) across Wales at the same time as an emergency vehicle so that they can provide essential care until the vehicle reaches the scene.

"Community First Responders are volunteers from all walks of life," commented Bryan Foley, from Barry who has been part of the Barry CFR team since its formation 10 years ago, and is a co-ordinator for the group.

"We are not necessarily health care professionals, though of course, there are some who have that experience – but we come from various backgrounds, ranging from a mortgage advisor to a housewife.

"We're trained by the Welsh Ambulance Service to administer basic life-saving skills, oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a defibrillator."

If you are interested in becoming a First Responder, contact the scheme co-ordinator Bryan Foley, on 07779 658331; or email barry.responders@ntlworld.com before the end of August.

Children revel in Play Day

FAMILIES supported by Tŷ Hafan enjoyed a day filled with bubble making, bug catching and den-building to mark National Play Day last week.

There was plenty of fun and laughter at the children's hospice in Sully, as life-limited youngsters and their siblings took part in several outdoor activities, including sky walking – an activity using mirrors to reflect images of the sky.

Specialist play workers also delivered story-massage and wheelchair art sessions for families after they enjoyed spending time in Tŷ Hafan's new state-of-the-art playground complete with swings, a race track and wheelchair trampoline.

Dong Luo's three-year-old daughter, Carol, was one of many children who enjoyed the Outdoor Play Day. Carol, from Cardiff, suffers from Congenital Central Hypoventilation and was referred to Tŷ Hafan when she was eight months old.

Carol and her family received short break care at the hospice when she was a baby, and have been enjoying day care sessions at the hospice ever since.

Mrs Luo said: "Carol was so excited when we told her we were going to Tŷ Hafan for the day! It has been a fantastic day and all the kids have had such fun. Play is really important for Carol and the staff at Tŷ Hafan are really good at knowing what activities suit her individual needs."

Hannah Williams, Tŷ Hafan's Care Services Team Leader, said: "Not only was the day lots of fun, but it was also a great opportunity to give our families the confidence to try new and different types of play which they may not have experienced before.

"Our approach to play is not focused on what a child cannot do, instead, we encourage them to discover what they can do. Play is a right for every child and is important in helping a child to express him/herself and reach his/her full potential. We are so pleased that everyone had such a fantastic time at our National Play Day event."

To support Tŷ Hafan's services please visit www.tyhafan.org.

Ruth Kearney

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Vale faces three years of cuts as austerity bites

THE Vale Council wants the community to face up to the effects of cuts that it will have to make over the next three years – a total of £32 million.

This week, the Vale Council cabinet announced plans to launch a wide-ranging consultation on how the cuts could be made – and they made clear that nothing is free from scrutiny.

Ideas that are up for consideration include more joint working with other local authorities, and looking at the possibility of letting the private sector run some services. The voluntary sector could also be in the frame for this type of arrangement.

A Vale Council spokesman said that it was a chance to look at "new and innovative methods of delivering its services" and the exercise has been described as the "Reshaping Services" strategy and change programme.

Vale residents, community groups and other public sector organisations will be asked to play a role in shaping how Vale Council services will be delivered in the future.

The council is launching a number of public engagement events which will allow a wide range of views on the future of services in the Vale to be heard, but the looming cuts mean that radical change could be on the way.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "Central government's austerity drive has created a period of financial pressures in the public sector we haven't seen the like of before.

"We will have to find over £10 million savings in 2015/16 and more than £32 million in total over the next three years.

"'Business as usual' is simply not an option for the council. If we want to continue to provide the services that we know our residents need, then we must find new ways of delivering them.

"Even though the council has an excellent track record of delivering services economically and effectively, we know that we are now moving into new and unexplored territory. We have to be radical and innovative and consider how things could be done differently."

Quickly out of the blocks with a comment was Plaid Cymru's Coun Ian Johnson, who warned the council against taking steps towards privatisation.

He said: "The Vale Council is a fairly well off local authority in Welsh terms, as you would expect, after increasing council taxes by a total of 9.5 per cent over the past two years, so we do not accept the need for swingeing cuts that don't improve services.

"If we can improve services, then Plaid Cymru will support any proposed changes, and we will engage with this process.

"Plaid Cymru are concerned about spinning off parts of the council into the private sector where the for-profit sector may lead to corners being cut and safety being compromised – for staff and members of the public."

Coun Johnson is not pointing a finger at the Westminster Coalition Government. He insisted: "Any cuts being made to local government services are now the sole responsibility of the Labour Government in Cardiff, and the Vale Council.

"If they are not happy with their budget, then they should take that up with the Minister in Cardiff, not take it out on the Vale public through cuts to our essential public services."

The Vale Council spokesman countered: *"According to many, a period of "permanent austerity" is now likely for councils across the UK for the foreseeable future.*

"Without radical action, continued cuts to budgets will result in a steady decline in the quality and variety of public services.

"Only by considering new ways of working, can local councils continue to provide a broad range of services and to an acceptable standard.

"To address the challenges ahead, the council is launching a change programme which will affect all parts of the organisation. It's forecast that it will take three years to accomplish."

• ***In the report considered by the cabinet members this week, it was pointed out that the Vale Council is 20th out of 22 local authorities in terms of funding per head of population.***

PHILIP IRWIN

£60 PENALTY FOR SKIPPING SCHOOL

PARENTS of pupils who are absent from school could face a £60 bill – after a new law was passed by the Welsh Government.

Applying the new law is the responsibility of the Vale Council, and on Monday this week, the cabinet of the Vale Council voted to make plans to introduce the scheme.

The council will have to develop a Code of Conduct, and then the Education Welfare Service (EWS) will operate it.

In a report considered by cabinet, members were told that the EWS investigates cases of irregular attendance from school, and can take legal action.

However, Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are thought to offer a means of swift intervention to prevent individual cases becoming entrenched and progressing to the local magistrate's courts.

A penalty notice will be £60 if paid within 28 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 28 days (but within 42 days of receipt).

If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 42 days the local authority must either prosecute parents/carers for the offence or withdraw the notice.

However, the report said that withdrawal of the notice can only take place in very limited circumstances as set out in the code of conduct.

The legislation allows headteachers and the police (including their nominated deputies) as well as designated local authority officers (EWOs) the powers to issue FPNs.

However, the Vale Council intends that all FPNs will be issued by the EWS. This is designed to rule out the issuing of duplicate penalty notices.

Penalty notices may be considered in the following circumstances:

• Where a minimum of 10 unauthorised sessions (five school days) have occurred in the current term (these do not need to be consecutive);

• Unauthorised absence from school due to a term time holiday and where there is a history of poor attendance;

• Persistent lateness of more than 10 sessions in the current term i.e. arrived at school after the close of the registration period;

• Where parent/carers have failed to engage with the school and/or the EWS in attempts to improve attendance but where court sanctions have not been instigated;

• Where a pupil regularly comes to the attention of the police during school hours for being absent from school without an acceptable reason.

FPNs will not be used as an immediate action e.g. on pupils found to be truanting during truancy operations.

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WAR GROUP ARE STILL IN SEARCH FOR NEW HOME

RIGHT: There will be no space for Barry At War on the unused ground floor of the former tourist information centre.

THE bid by local history group Barry at War has failed to pass the first stage of the process to secure a lease on the unused ground floor of the former Barry Tourist Information Centre.

Barry at War chair, Ade Pitman, said: "When we first broached the idea of using the building about 12 months ago, we had hoped to have had a Great War Centenary Centre established in time for this week's commemorative events.

"It would have been a real feather in the cap for Barry, and we believe that it would have attracted considerable numbers of heritage tourists and school visits.

"Naturally, the group and the Forces Associations who have supported our idea to establish a Great War Centenary Centre in the building on Barry Island promenade, are all disappointed that we have failed to pass this stage, but we understand the commercial issues that have led to the Vale Council's decision.

"Our bid would have been assessed according to commercial criteria, and as it was essentially a community project there would have been far larger bids made for the property than ours, thus generating more revenue for the Council.

"This is a shame, however, as we believe that the site would have been ideal for us to provide an educational facility, as well as attracting heritage tourism, particularly out of season.

"The centre would have also included a room for use by Forces organisations such as the Royal British Legion, for consultations with their clients, in a sympathetic environment.

"The commemoration of the centenary of the Great War is proving a busy time for Barry at War, as we are providing materials in support of the Great War exhibitions at Barry library and St Athan camp.

"We also provided support to the Porthcawl museum Great War centenary event. We expect this high level of activity to continue and even grow as the centenary period continues.

"One of our core principles is to help other community groups and schools, by providing the necessary equipment to help them to put on their own exhibitions, and our next Great War exhibitions are in partnership with the YMCA and the RNLI.

"Although the decision by the Vale Council is disappointing, we look forward to working with them and invite suggestions from those responsible for regeneration and tourism, to suggest an alternative venue for a Great War Centenary Centre.

"As the popularity of our tiny museum continues to grow, we are open to all feasible suggestions as to how to improve it and widen the appeal and our ability to make the facility more interactive. The museum already rates as the second best attraction in Barry, on Trip Advisor. We aim to be the best attraction in Barry following Wartime Weekend.

"We are still optimistic that a Great War Centenary Centre can be established in Barry before the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, in 2016. This date is currently achievable."

The museum is open Wednesday afternoons, 2pm – 4pm. For more details go to www.barryatwar.info.

All Riley wants is a quiet life!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

RILEY is a 10-year-old terrier, a lovely, sweet dog, who unfortunately, has had a difficult past – having been in and out of the rehoming centre several times.

Because of this, he is a sensitive dog who needs lots of time and understanding to adjust. He does mix with other dogs, but needs reminding of his manners at first.

He enjoys a cuddle and lots of fuss once he has built up trust with you. Riley is looking for a quiet home preferably with other calm female dog(s) already in residence.

If there are no dogs in the home, it may take a little more time for him to settle in. He can be left alone for a few hours, and he is housetrained. He can live with older children over 14 years old.

If you can offer Riley a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12pm – 4pm every day except Monday, and until 7.30pm on Wednesdays.

LINDA FEAGAN
(Supporter Relations officer
Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Call for more charity collectors

MARIE Curie Cancer Care has issued an urgent appeal for volunteers, to help look after shops in the areas that have its charity tins and daffodil boxes on their counter tops.

Donations collected will need to be counted and banked at a local NatWest.

All money raised will go directly to supporting the Marie Curie Nursing Service, including the Penarth hospice.

Contact the local community fundraising team on: 01792 461 435; Hannah.leckie@mariecurie.org.uk

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WHAT'S ON

THIS Saturday, August 16, Llancarfan village show and summer fair takes place at 2pm.

There will be face painting by local famous illustrator Emma Levy, birds of prey from the Welsh Hawking Centre, games and crafts, a plant stall, tombola and raffle. Afternoon teas will be served with mouth-watering cakes!

Medals and prizes will be presented by Jane Hutt AM at 5pm.

Rummage sale

THERE will be a rummage sale in All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, August 16 from 10am until 11.30. Entry 50p includes tea/coffee.

All money raised is for charity.

Ward surgery

LABOUR Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, August 16 from 10am – 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square. ***No appointment necessary.***

Festival plan

AN open meeting to discuss holding a 2015 jazz/soul seaside festival will be held in committee room 2 at Barry Civic Offices on Monday, August 18 at 7pm.

Organisers are hoping to hold a seaside event in June next year and are seeking volunteers to get involved on the committee or sponsorship.

Contact Coun Richard Bertin on 07973 153987.

Family service

ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, August 24 at 10am.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages, focused on the theme of 'Who is the greatest?'

Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards.

All are welcome; for more information, visit allsaintspenarth.org.uk.

Open day

THE St Athan Local History Group is holding an open day on Saturday, August 30 from 10am to 4pm in the Old Community Centre (next to the library).

Photos, documents and ephemera and a chance to meet old friends. *Admission is free but there is a collection on behalf of Velindre Hospital.*

Valeways guided walks

TO Flat and Steep Holm View on Sunday, August 17; meet at cliff top car park, Penarth at 2pm.

Walk and Click at 10am on Monday, August 18; meet at Porthkerry Country Park Cafe car park.

On Tuesday, August 19: Awn am Dro at 9.30am at Cowbridge Library.

Coffee Shop Strollers meet on Wednesday, August 20 at 10.30am at Cosmeston Visitor Centre.

On Thursday, August 21 at 10am Let's Go to Llangan; meet at Cross Inn, Llanblethian.

Garden open

BORDERVALE Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen Cowbridge CF71 7SX will be open to the public for NGS on August 25.

Within mature woodland valley (semi-tamed) with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; mini wildflower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised.

The nursery specialises in unusual perennials and cottage garden plants. Nursery open: Fri – Sun (10 – 5, and often open Mon – Thurs) Mar – Sept, when garden is also open May – Sept (NOT FOR NGS).

Open for NGS: Mon Aug 25, (10 – 5) entry £3.

Artist Frank Roper remembered in centenary exhibition in Barry

FROM his cliff-top workshop, overlooking Penarth Pier, artist Frank Roper spent over 50 years producing his unique sculptures and stained glass windows for churches throughout Wales and England.

These include works for cathedrals at Durham, Peterborough, Wells, Saint David's and Llandaff, and many churches in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Frank Roper was born in Haworth in Yorkshire on December 12, 1914. He later studied at Keighley and at The Royal College of Art, where he became one of Henry Moore's students.

In 1947, Roper was appointed as a lecturer in charge of sculpture at The School of Art, in Cardiff. He later became Vice-Principal, where he remained until his retirement in 1973.

The magnificent reredos screen at Llandaff Cathedral.

At a special exhibition, celebrating the centenary of his birth, photographs of his work produced for churches in the Vale are on display at Travellers Gallery, Barry.

These include two sculptures seen at St Mary's Church, Penmark and Saint Augustine's Church, Penarth and commemorative windows from St Tydfil's Church, Llysworney, St Mary's Church, Wenvoe, St Peter's Church, Dinas Powis, All Saints' Churches at Penarth and Barry, as well as two fine examples from St Michael's Church, Michaelston-le-Pit. His work from Christ Church, Roath, Cardiff and his fine reredos screen at the Lady Chapel, Llandaff Cathedral will also feature.

There is also a rare opportunity to see some of his original sculptures on loan for this occasion.

Travellers Gallery is run by VoGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) in partnership with MIND in the Vale.

A spokesperson for VoGA said: "As well as providing the opportunity to revisit his work, it also introduces the public to the work of this modest man who made such a valuable contribution to church art in his adopted home."

The special centenary exhibition at Travellers Gallery, Barry Station runs from August 11 to September 12 (open weekdays, mornings only). **CN**

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27/8/2014	Wednesday	Builth Wells	£14.00	£13.00
17/9/2014	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market & Tenby	£9.50	£9.00
20/9/2014	Saturday	Bath City Centre	£7.50	£7.00
03/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50
12/11/2014	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market	£9.50	£9.00
29/11/2014	Saturday	Worcester Xmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
30/11/2014	Saturday	Ludlow Medieval Xmas	£15.00	£14.00
07/12/2014	Sunday	Bath Xmas Market	£13.75	£12.75
20/12/2014	Saturday	London Sight & Shopper Day Trip	£20.00	£19.00

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. Local pickups throughout South Wales.

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OZ ADVENTURE IS A LAUGH RIOT FOR THE INBETWEENERS

BRITISH television comedy has often found its way onto the big screen, but more often than not, the filmed versions of these shows pale in comparison to their small screen brethren – the cast usually upping sticks and going on holiday (worst offender? *Holiday On The Buses*).

So when that was announced as the plot of *The Inbetweeners Movie* in 2011, the trepidation was palpable; however, the film was easily the equal of the show itself, and despite protests that that was the end of the road for the gang, its success meant a second big screen outing was more than likely.

In *The Inbetweeners 2*, we pick up with the gang spread out, with Jay (James Buckley) backpacking in Australia; when Will (Simon Thomas), Simon (Joe Thomas) and Neil (Blake Harrison) decide to forego the pleasures of Britain and university and follow him out there, things (as you may imagine) take a turn for the awkward and embarrassing...

Speaking from personal experience, the adventures of the Inbetweeners are all too real and close to the bone, but at the same time, this basis in reality makes the humour and relationships of the boys feel realistic and natural.

This second big screen adventure takes the next logical step from a boys' holiday celebrating the end of secondary education – that of a gap year sojourn to the land Down Under funded by higher education – but those who imagined this second outing to be a basic retread of the first are in the wrong as *The Inbetweeners 2* is a hilariously funny, yet touching, outing that uses the boys' (very) burgeoning maturity to both comedic and heartfelt effect. Both the show and the previous film weren't afraid to use extreme humour to get laughs, but it was always underpinned with that sense of male bonhomie and the fact that, beneath all the bluster, they actually really like each other.

It's a tactic that this outing also uses, but taking the boys out of the confines of their common room hasn't made them any less socially awkward – now it's university that has it in for them – and reflecting their status in society in a more mature setting works wonderfully well.

Creators (and this time around directors) Damon Beesly and Iain Morris have great fun in playing up their characters' foibles, with their concerns having moved on from trying to talk to girls, to trying to extract themselves from relationships, pining for loves lost, or seeing where they fit in in the world at large.

That isn't to say that the film loses itself in introspection – far from it, it just gives Beesly and Morris the opportunity to widen the scale of creating awkward and embarrassing situations for the boys, something they take full advantage of. There are, as you would expect, callbacks to jokes from previous outings, but the sly nods and winks are subtly done and are executed in a way that don't feel shoehorned in. The pair deserve particular praise for a scene towards the end that sums up the Inbetweeners – coarse humour with a sense of unspoken friendship and camaraderie finally bubbling to the surface.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

The cast are, as you would expect, all superb – Simon Bird does exasperation to perfection, Joe Thomas' dead-eyed panic is wonderful to watch, James Buckley adds a depth of pain to Jay's earnestly boastful nature, while Blake Harrison's gormless Neil is both heartfelt and gloriously unaware – with the new additions having little to do but doing it reasonably well.

The backpackers and Australians do feel a touch stereotypical, sketched in the loosest possible terms – while the plot isn't going to leave anybody shocked and surprised.

But these are minor concerns in what is an otherwise wonderfully sweary and caustic comedy that more than matches the rest of the Inbetweeners' output.

VERDICT – Wonderfully coarse, hilariously funny yet not without a satisfying dollop of heart, *The Inbetweeners 2* hits all the right notes as the boys return to the big screen. Doing exactly what you would want it to, while moving into slightly more grown-up concerns as well, it's a predictable, but incredibly humorous second outing.

Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Inbetweeners Movie* (2011), *American Pie* (1999).

Tidy-up awards for local projects

THE Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport, John Griffiths AM, allocated £799,627 funding to support 31 community projects, including Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, as part of the Tidy Towns initiative.

"In total, the Welsh Government is providing £2,202,748 to help communities improve their local area and tackle problems, such as littering, fly tipping, dog fouling and vandalism," a spokesperson said.

The awards:

- £30,000 for the Cornelly and District Development Trust, to turn an overgrown area of land in Bridgend affected by litter and fly-tipping into community gardens.
- £11,981.70 for Badger's Brook Allotments Association to transform a disused area of land in Bridgend into a community growing area. The project will tackle litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling with the aim of turning the site into allotment plots for the community.
- £4,260 for Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to build paths through the park that will provide greater community access from the town to the neighbourhoods surrounding the park in Nantyfyllon and Maesteg.
- £11,610 for Gwyrddio Penarth Greening, to work with the local school and community to clear an area of land subject to fly-tipping, littering, dog fouling and graffiti, to create a community garden.

Countdown starts to 40th Llantwit Major Show!

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's 40th annual flower and vegetable show will be held on Saturday (August 16) in the leisure centre at Ham Lane East.

The theme is 'Enjoy your garden, You may be a winner... Show at the Llantwit Major Show!'

This year, there are 83 classes in sections that include vegetables, fruit, flowers, pot plants, novices, decorative, children's displays, home baking, preserves, home brews, top tray and top vase.

Exhibits for all sections will be welcome at the leisure centre from 8.30am to 10.45am on the day. The children's section is split into age groups to cater for all children regardless of age, and the show will open to the public after judging at about 2pm.

The society welcomes all exhibitors to go along and join in the fun of exhibiting. There are trophies, and cash to be won – "Who knows, your entry could be best in show!"

Show schedules are available and can be obtained from the society shop in Llanmaes Road (by the fire station) on Sunday mornings, or at 39 Bedford Rise, Llantwit Major.

Disability Services: FAMILY FUN DAY

Disability Services, funded by Families First, are holding a family fun day for children with additional needs, their siblings and families on Friday, August 15 from 11am to 3pm at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Cadoc Crescent, Barry CF63 2NT.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and the aim of the day is for children to have fun and to let families know what services and support are available in the Vale.

For more information, contact Disability Index Administrator: 01446 704704; or ***disabilityindex@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk***

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WHETHER you are creating a new wildlife garden, or have an established one, think of it as a nature reserve and you are the warden.

Here are ten wildlife friendly tips to get your own wildlife reserve under way:

1. Grow a mixture of native and non-native plants to provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects. Choose plants that flower at different times of year to ensure that pollen and nectar are available over a long period. Select trees and shrubs with berries for birds and other animals.

2. Create a water feature in your garden. A pond, ideally without fish, will enable amphibians and dragonflies to breed. If a pond is not practical, a simple bird bath or pebble fountain will provide a place for animals to drink.

3. Delay cutting back perennials until the spring. The seed heads that remain provide valuable food for birds and other animals through the winter, while the stems and foliage provide valuable shelter for hibernating insects.

4. Recycle your organic kitchen and garden waste to create compost for the garden. The compost heap will not only provide you with an excellent soil conditioner but will also be home to invertebrates and other animals, and is a rich feeding ground for birds and beetles.

5. Create additional habitats for wildlife by growing climbing plants against bare walls and fences. These provide valuable cover and food for birds, insects and mammals, as well as adding extra interest to the garden.

6. Dead wood is a valuable habitat, supporting a wide range of invertebrates. Dead wood can be used to create a simple wood pile or interesting sculptural feature.

7. Help wildlife by providing additional features such as bird and bat boxes, solitary bee nests and bird feeders. Birds can be provided with food, either bought seed or food scraps, throughout the year.

8. Consider leaving part of your lawn uncut. Long grass is an excellent habitat for grasshoppers, beetles and young amphibians, and provides roosts for insects such as damselflies. Grasses are also important food sources for the caterpillars of some butterflies.

9. Where possible, avoid using pesticides and herbicides, instead use mulches to control weeds, select disease resistant varieties of plants and use cultural or biological control methods to combat pests. Encourage a natural balance to develop by having as wide a range of plants and animals as possible.

10. Think carefully about the origin of anything you buy for your garden. Ensure that plants come from cultivated stock and that the use of any material, such as potting compost, does not put a habitat under threat, whether in the UK or abroad.

Coun Rob Curtis,
Vale of Glamorgan
Biodiversity Champion.

Open Gardens Penarth Trail nears £5,000

THE 18th Open Gardens Trail in Penarth was once again a huge success – and raised just under £5,000 for The Children's Society.

We were fortunate to have been blessed with wonderful summer sunshine on both days, which in turn brought in visitors from far and wide.

Many thanks on behalf of the society to the public for their support and donors of raffle prizes. All winners have been notified and prizes claimed.

Many thanks to The GEM whose advance publicity for this popular event is invaluable.

ANN LUSH MBE,
(Hon vice-president The Children's Society UK, Chairman, Penarth committee).

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We hope you like the new look. Be assured that while our products and skills have moved on over the past two decades, our attention to detail and determination to offer customers the best possible service has stayed the same.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Kingfisher Developments – **11 Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Erection of a two bedroom house.
Mr Craig Wiliams – **Hathaway, 48 Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension and alteration works.
Mr Andrew Clemett – **Land north side of road leading from Treoes to Llangan** – Proposed erection of four private stables and hay store.
Mr Malcolm Evans – **Treetops, Romilly Park Road, Barry** – Partially demolish existing detached garage; construct new two storey extension to side elevation of house.
Mrs Susan Jones – **85 Tynewydd Road, Barry** – Proposed crossover and parking area.
Mrs Jean England – **Redundant car park at the Downs Cafe, St Hilary** – proposed single storey dwelling on the Downs Cafe redundant car park.
National Grid Electricity – **Between Hinkley Point and Seabank** – Proposed Hinkley Point C connection project.
Mr Andrew Miller – **Brynheulog, St Andrews Road, Wenvoe** – Proposed stables and extension to existing outbuilding/store.
Mr Steven and Mrs Tina Webb – **23 Rhodfa Felin, Barry** – Single storey rear extension.
Mr and Mrs Danks – **48 Heol Eryr Mor, Barry** – Conservatory extension to rear.
Cenin Renewables Limited – **Land east of Five Mile Lane, Barry** – 6MW solar PV array.
Mr Philip Shaw – **Old Hedges, St Nicholas, Cardiff** – Refurbishment and extension of four-bedroom detached dwelling house to provide additional bedroom/ensuite and home office.
Mr Peter Treadwell – **18a Park Road, Barry** – Proposed garage conversion into study and utility room.
Ms A Adlam – **39 Victoria Road, Penarth** – Ground floor front extension.
Mrs Helen McKechnie – **24 Davids Crescent, Penarth** – Rear/side single storey extension and rear dormer.

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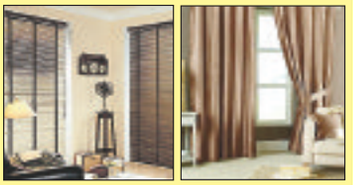

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Go geometric to make your home fresh and stylish...

by GABRIELLE FAGAN

EVEN if you hated maths at school, it could be time to brush up on your geometry, as decor focuses on shapes and angles.

Lines, triangles, hexagons, chevrons and circles are proliferating in pattern and are a must-have not just for this season but beyond, as they feature strongly in Autumn collections.

"Geometrics are a popular choice for bringing pattern into the home, with sharp, angular designs such as zigzags and graphic prints currently leading the way as favourites," says Kate Tansley, creative director at Multiyork.

"Softer on the eye, circular geometric-style prints are also making an impact and are a great way to introduce the trend into a space and give it a stylish uplift.

"Geometric patterns lend themselves perfectly to fabric and can easily turn functional furniture, like a sofa or chair, into a striking statement piece."

Of course, geometry isn't solely represented in print; natural geometry is all around us, and it can be found in furniture design and architecture, so there's no need to completely redesign your home to add a touch of the trend.

Our love of shape and angle goes back through history, the ancient Greeks and Moroccans both used its principles in their interior design.

Today, many leading designers use strong geometric shapes, combined with symmetry, to bring a coveted feeling of elegance, order and tranquillity to spaces.

"Art Deco-inspired interiors, with their characteristic geometric lines and patterns, are enjoying a renaissance," agrees Karen Anderson, editor at online interiors company, Alison At Home.

"Last year's *Great Gatsby* film had a big influence, fashion's embraced pattern and shapes as well. Perhaps more significantly, we're living through cash-poor times, and the fact that this trend so effortlessly creates a sense of opulence makes it very desirable.

"If you really want a 'wow' factor introduce geometrics in monochrome or gold."

So forget Pythagoras' theorem and all that baffles – the correct answer is to sum up your style with glamorous geometric shapes.

MONO MAGIC

Devotees of neutrals have known all along that colour may be cool for the moment, but clean, sharp monochrome or fashionable smoky grey schemes have timeless appeal and suit any interior.

"People often think these patterns can only work in bold bright colours, but that's a misconception because they work equally well in monochrome or grey palettes," says Katie Watson, interior designer at furniture specialists, Fishpools.

"The combination of strong design in monochrome shades creates a clean-cut, classic look which is easy on the eye and can easily be enlivened, if necessary, with 'pops' of colour."

TIP: When it comes to shapes, the look you create will depend on the lines and angles you pick. Curved lines give geometrics a retro twist, whereas sharper angles look more contemporary.

Work the room with patterned walls or flooring. A monochrome pattern of squares could enhance a feeling of space in a room.

NATURAL PATTERN

Soft green and yellow shades paired with pattern are a subtle choice, and in tune with our desire to feature the colours of nature and showcase natural materials like wood and stone.

"Pattern and colour can be daunting to use at first, so play around with samples of fabric to ensure that you're picking up on a similar colourway or design, as this will ensure cohesion in a scheme," says Kate Tansley at Multiyork.

"Less is more, is a good rule to follow – even if you're passionate about these patterns. Too many 'busy' or varied prints can make a room feel chaotic, so limit your choice to two or three and ensure there are enough neutral accents to balance them out."

TIP: To make a furniture piece the centre of attention, opt for a large, oversized geometric print in a vibrant colour palette.

OUT OF THE BLUE

Blue still reigns supreme in interiors, and whether you choose its palest hues or deep indigos, pair it with pattern and it will surely pack a punch and speak volumes about your decor credentials.

"Create your own take on the Scandi-look by introducing bold, geometric prints in a neutral backdrop, to give your home a clean, modern feel," says Philip Watkin, designer at sofa specialists, DFS.

"Choose soft, cool colours to reflect as much light as possible and open up small spaces to make them feel bigger, then experiment with bold patterns. Small or large doses of geometric pattern will help create a lively, interesting scheme."

TIP: Choose a framed print with a geometric design in a dominant colour on a bright background. Place it in a focal point in your room and keep the wall a pale colour.

The eye will focus on the pattern, while the wall will appear to fade away, expanding the space.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Home Comforts Furniture – **Home Comforts, Unit 4a West Winds Business Park, Llangan** – change of use of the unit to a mixture of B8 and A1.

Mr Peter Marriot – **The Market Place Restaurant, 66 High Street, Cowbridge** – construct a frameless glass entrance lobby on front elevation.

Mr Gerald Leeke – **Hensol Castle, Hensol Castle Park, Hensol** – construct a single storey flat green roof conference and wedding venue with associated bar within the inner courtyard of Hensol Castle and to reposition the lift providing access to the bedrooms at the first and second floors.

Mr and Mrs Underhill – **rear of 15 Cedar Way, Penarth** – proposed elderly/disabled accommodation ancillary to main house.

Mrs Kaye Cheeseman – **97 Andrew Road, Penarth** – loft conversion including a dormer extension.

Mrs Christine Wilson – **18 East View, Llandow** – demolish existing single storey annexe; add new porch to front door, move bathroom window from gable end wall to front wall.

Mrs Jo-Anne Binding – **Three Bells Inn, Coldbrook Road West, Barry** – planning consent for changes to the rear elevations; front elevation to benefit from new front porch.

Mr Philip Walters – **east end of The Mole, No 1 Dock, Barry dock** – engineering works – formation of a boat slipway in the existing dock wall.

Cenin Renewables – **land east of Five Mile Lane** – 6MW solar PV array.

Mrs Geraldine Rideout – **53 Plas Taliesin, Portway Marina, Penarth** – proposed single storey kitchen extension, new balcony and windows.

Mr and Mrs S Baxter – **16 Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge** – two storey extension.

Rene Jehu – **land off Redwood Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – approval of landscaping of the development.

Mrs Joan Thomas – **Pancross House, Llancarfan** – construction of conservatory on existing raised patio.

Peter Alan – **Peter Alan Ltd., 3 Windsor Road, Penarth** – one illuminated fascia; and one double-sided projecting sign.

Stavrakis Consultants – **former mortuary building, Hayes Point, Hayes Road, Sully** – conversion and extension of former mortuary building to residential bungalow.

Mr Mark Cleghorn – **Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry** – change of use from place of worship to photography studio.

Mr Clive Spencer – **79 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – retention of garage.

Mr Xavier Rush – **barns at West Aberthaw Farm, Aberthaw** – conversion of redundant barns to provide four residential units.

Mr and Mrs Darren Raisis – **Lee Croft, 135 Colcot Road, Barry** – two storey side extension and associated works for disabled occupancy.

Llanmoor Development Co Ltd – **Elms Farm, off Stryd Silurian, Llanharry** – development of site to provide up to 80 dwellings with associated infrastructure (outline).

Mr Lee James – **18 Clive Place, Penarth** – internal and external alterations, demolition of existing garage and construction of proposed garage.

Persimmon Homes East Wales – **site known as West Pond, Barry Waterfront, Barry** – change of use of land at West Pond, Barry to a marketing suite.

Mr Falkland Anderson – **4 Charter Avenue, Barry** – demolish side garage and rebuild garage with first floor extension, attic conversion with rear dormer and small rear single storey extension.

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Commemorating the centenary of the First World War
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL IS RESCUED

DR JONATHAN HICKS TELLS THE STORY BEHIND A LOCAL CHURCH'S MEMORIAL

A DAY after attending an event on August 4 to commemorate the Great War centenary, which so many of us did, there was a knock on my door.

A gentleman named Harry Holmes informed me that he and a friend, Rhys Howell, had rescued a war memorial, and asked if I would like to have it for safekeeping.

They had been working in a Barry church and had saved the marble memorial before it was disposed of.

The Trinity Presbyterian Church memorial lists the names of five local men who each laid down his life for this country during that terrible war.

Private **William Norman Hale** served with the 2nd (Welsh) Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was the son of William and Elsie Hale of School House in Sully, where his mother was a schoolmistress. William attended Cardiff High School before enlisting in the army at the start of the war.

Private Benjamin Jeremiah, 19.

ABOVE: Memorial from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry.

After no doubt helping to save many lives, William died of pneumonia aged 26 on November 28, 1918 and is buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery.

Private **Thomas William Healey** was the son of William Healey of 36 Commercial Road. He had emigrated to Australia before the war and had lived there for three years before enlisting in the Australian Army in March 1916 at Freemantle, Western Australia. He gave his occupation as that of a waiter. On a return visit to Barry he married Edith Morgan on November 18, 1916 and she was living at 70 Broad Street. Edith remained in Barry awaiting his return from the war.

He was hospitalised with trench foot in December 1916 and returned for treatment in England before being sent back to the Front in July 1917. He was hospitalised again in August with scabies.

Thomas was killed on October 12, 1917, aged 25, while serving with the 34th Battalion of the Australian Infantry during the Battle of Passchendaele. His body was never identified and he is remembered with honour on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Private **Benjamin Jeremiah**, aged 19, of the London Scottish Regiment, the eldest son of Mr B Jeremiah of 18 Barry Road, fell mortally wounded in action during the Battle of Cambrai in France on 23 November 1917 – a day of heavy fighting known as 'Bloody Friday'. He had been in the army for over twelve months and had been on active service in France for six months. The bereaved parents received a letter of sympathy from the King.

The young soldier was a former pupil of Cadoxton School and is remembered on the school memorial. His close friend, Private Reginald Williams from Cardiff, was killed in the same battle.

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) **Idris Roberts** from Cardiff Road served with the 17th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He was working in the Civil Service when he enlisted in January 1915, aged 19. He later married while home for a brief period on leave and had one child.

Idris had been educated at Cadoxton and Barry County Schools, and is remembered on those memorials too. He was top in the scholarship examination to enter the County School so a promising career beckoned.

Sadly, he died of wounds received in action on September 2, 1918 at a casualty clearing station as the result of a gunshot wound to his left shoulder. He is buried in Varennes Military Cemetery, north of Albert in France.

Thomas Charles Cooling died on June 24, 1922. He was the son of a dock constable and his brother William was a stretcher bearer with the 9th Devonshires who had been wounded in September 1915.

Thomas was a sergeant in the Royal Fusiliers and had never fully recovered from wounds received in 1916. After the war he had returned to his job at the Audit Office in the Docks Offices.

He had undergone several operations to no avail and he succumbed to the effects of his last operation in a hospital in Neath on the day of his intended marriage. Thomas was buried in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

Thanks to the efforts of Harry and Rhys, a significant part of Barry's history has been saved, and I look forward to the time when the town has its own museum so that it can be properly displayed.

Should readers wish to learn more about Barry's role in the First World War, reference copies of my book, 'Barry and the Great War', are available in all local libraries.

World War One display in Barry

IN commemoration of World War One, Park Funeral Directors of Tynewydd Road, Barry have assembled a window display of interesting items and artifacts, with the help of Dr Jonathan Hicks, military historian and headmaster of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth.

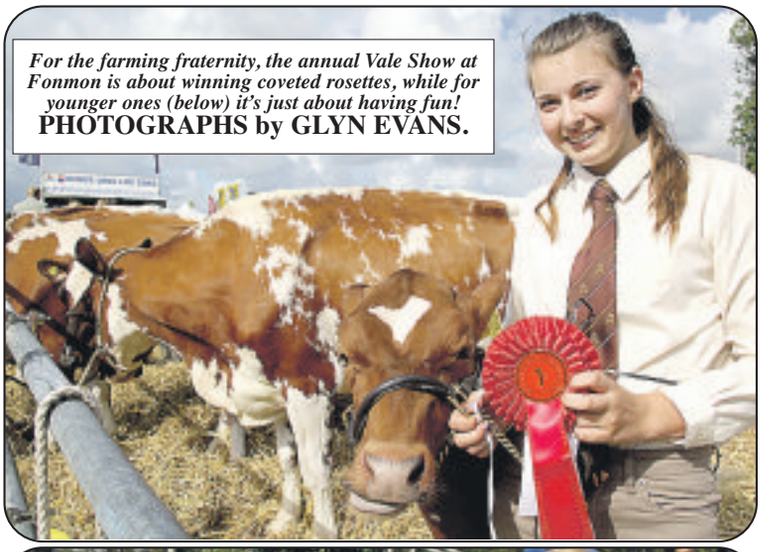
The display comprises military uniforms and medals from the war with a short history of one of Park Funeral Directors co-owner's relatives.

The late George James Ball served in the Royal Engineers for the entire conflict, as he was a fully qualified electrician with Cardiff Corporation Transport Trams (electrics being the new technology of that era).

Flags from different branches of the military service are displayed, in recognition of all those who gave their lives during the Great War.

The public is invited to call in to see the display.

Vale Show is the No.1 attraction!



For the farming fraternity, the annual Vale Show at Fonmon is about winning coveted rosettes, while for younger ones (below) it's just about having fun!
PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS.

NEW GARDEN

CHILDREN at Rhws Primary School Nursery have had an extra incentive to enjoy the recent sunny weather outdoors, thanks to the creation of a new garden.

Mrs Louise Davenport, nursery learning support assistant, has worked tirelessly to design and create the wildlife-friendly garden. Many of the materials have been donated by John Barlow of JJ Gardening Services, Rhoose.

It is intended that the garden will provide "a rich learning environment, through which the pupils will develop a love of nature and have fun learning valuable social, practical and life skills" .

The photograph (above) shows Louise with some of the nursery pupils.

Who wants to build what and where?

*Old Cowbridge Grammar School Management Limited – **Old Cowbridge Grammar School (Communial garden), Church Street, Cowbridge** – works to Copper beech.*

*Mrs Lisa Carson – **Shangri La, Barry Road, Dinas Powys** – provision of dog facilities, including new buildings and retention of four kennel cabins.*

*Mr and Mrs Matthew Gilbert – **28 Trem Y Don, Barry** – take down existing garage and lean-to porch and construct new extension to form sun lounge, utility room, study and shower room (with internal alterations to existing kitchen).*

*Mr and Mrs Steven Lewis – **The Links, off Pen Y Lan Road, Aberthin** – alteration and extension of existing dwelling.*

*Mr Hawkins – **27 Heol y Dryw, Rhoose** – conservatory extension to rear.*

RURAL CRIME COSTS ECONOMY £2m IN WALES

IN 2013, rural crime in Wales cost the economy an estimated £2m (up from £1.9m in 2012), according to a UK-wide survey by NFU Mutual.

Its annual Rural Crime Survey shows the nationwide cost of rural crime totalled an estimated £44.5m in 2013 – a rise of 5.2 per cent. The new figure reverses a fall of 19 per cent in 2012.

The most common items targeted by thieves in south and mid Wales over the last 12 months were tools, quad bikes and fuel such as domestic heating oil and farmers' supplies of 'red' diesel.

More than half of staff interviewed from hundreds of NFU Mutual offices in rural communities around the UK also said they'd seen customers suffer repeat crimes or had high-value items stolen. Although high-value thefts may be planned and highly organised, the number of stolen garden tools and ornaments indicates opportunist thieves continue to target gardens and outbuildings.

Julian Kelly, NFU Mutual Agent in Bridgend, said: "The cost of claims is increasing as a result of more high-value items being stolen. That's why it's important to stay vigilant and fight rural crime. Our experience with people who live and work in rural areas of South Wales clearly shows that theft is more than just a setback – it can be devastating for businesses and families.

"One of the rural community's best assets is its people who can work together to safeguard the local neighbourhood. That is why NFU Mutual organises the Country Crime Fighters Awards, a nationwide competition to support and encourage fantastic examples of crime prevention taking place in the countryside. You can enter or nominate someone on our website."

For more information on the Rural Crime Survey, visit www.nfumutual.co.uk/ruralcrime.

'Meic' offers exam students support

STUDENTS anxious over A-level, GCSE, and other exam results, can get emotional support by calling 'Meic', the Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister Jeff Cuthbert said this week.

'Meic' has an ongoing Facebook campaign to make young people aware that whatever their problem, they are there to listen.

The Welsh Government-funded helpline service for children and young people up to the age of 25 in Wales is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It can be contacted by phone, SMS text and instant messaging.

Since going 24/7 in January 2011, just over 20,000 children and young people have contacted Meic.

The Welsh Government provides £850,000 of funding to support the service.

Meic can be accessed online at www.meiccymru.org or by calling 0808 80 23456.

Live a life of adventure...

with MARIA LEIJERSTAM

Double world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, inspires you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria guides you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

THIS week sees the world's best adventure racers taking part in a five-day non-stop race across Wales, finishing in Cardiff Bay on Friday, August 15.

Luckily, this race is not too effected by the weather as these experienced racers are prepared for anything, wind, rain and even snow.

The event began in Caernarfon on Monday morning at 8am and over the course of the week follows the very best that Wales has to offer: A paddle in the Menai straits, a bike ride through the Snowdonia National Park, a paddle to Barmouth, run over Cadair Idris, a cycle down the Elan Valley, paddle on the River Wye, run through the Black Mountain and then finishing off on bikes down the Taff Trail.

After five days of non stop racing with only a few hours of rest over the course of the race, you can expect to see some very tired looking competitors in Cardiff Bay on Friday.

Not all adventure races are quite as extreme as this one, but one thing they all have in common is that teams need to work together, to get through the unexpected.

Where navigation is essential to success, it's not always the fastest that win. Sometimes it's the teams that make the smartest decisions that win.

There is also a lot of skill involved in adventure racing. Adventure racers need to be fit but also need to be able to do multiple sports and challenges on route.

During the course of the week, the competitors in this race across Wales will also have to tackle some zip wires, orienteering, caving and probably some more unexpected surprises along the way.

Adventure races are now available for children and beginners in Wales and what better place to start off than in the safety of Margam Park where the Mini Burn Series is hosted. The next event is on October 5.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

LEGION COFFEE

A COFFEE morning in aid of the Royal British Legion's Barry branch, is being held at Barry Central Bowls Club, Gladstone Gardens on Saturday, August 23 at 10.30am until 12pm; £2 entrance to include tea/coffee and a cake. Also raffle.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS FREE TESTS TO TEACHING CANDIDATES

A LEADING Welsh university is offering free tests worth up to £300, to enable prospective teacher training candidates to meet new entry requirements introduced by the Welsh Government.

From September onwards, it will be a statutory requirement for all students to have achieved B grades at GCSE-level in both maths and English, before beginning a teacher training course in Wales.

The new requirements have been introduced as part of a Welsh Government initiative to improve teaching standards at all levels across Wales.

As a result, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) will hold equivalency tests in both subjects on August 27 at partner organisation Coleg Sir Gâr's Pibwrlwyd campus in Carmarthen. These tests, which can cost up to £150 each, will be available free of charge to anyone applying for one of UWTSD's PGCE courses, provided they satisfy all the other entry requirements for their chosen course.

That would usually involve a good degree classification (2.2 or better) in a subject relevant to the curriculum subject they wish to teach.

The taught element of UWTSD's PGCE programme takes place at the Townhill campus in Swansea.

Students also undertake two teaching placements in partner schools and colleges across south Wales during the intensive one-year course.

There will be an open evening for UWTSD's PGCE Secondary courses from 4pm – 7pm on Thursday, 21 August at the Townhill campus. More information can be obtained by emailing teach@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk.

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teach@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk

Open Evening: Townhill campus, 4pm–7pm on Thursday, 21 August

Noson Agored: Campws Townhill, 4pm–7pm, ddydd Iau, 21 Awst

RHOOSE WI REMEMBER THE CALL TO ARMS

RHOOSE WI commemorated the start of the First World War at their meeting on August 7 when the 'Winos' – the WI's drama group – using the words of soldiers serving in the conflict, showed their fellow members scenes from life at the Front.

The basis of this was 'The Wipers Times', a newspaper published at the Front by serving soldiers, for serving soldiers, and familiar songs such as 'Goodbye Dolly Grey' and 'Tipperary' were also used.

The programme opened with 'Oh it's a Lovely War', when Elsa Jones, as a recruiting sergeant, called upon the 'men of Rhoose' to join up and serve King and country!

Following scenes depicted troops leaving for the Front; a BEF Alphabet; 'Home Leave' and 'Life in the Trenches'. These were made poignant by the humour and pathos of the words of those brave men who contributed to 'The Wipers Times'.

Music and the sounds of battle were used to great effect, and the Winos and their stage-manager, Tricia Farley, did a splendid job. At the end of the performance, a candle of remembrance was lit and president Jenny Reed called on members who had lost relatives in the Great War to stand and name the fallen.

A number of members responded and a minute's silence followed.

Before supper, which was prepared by member Glenys Watson of 'Coffee Time', members were reminded of the following items: the centenary baton of the National Federation will arrive at the Senedd on August 22 at 11am; anyone wishing to attend should make their own way to the Bay and meet at the Senedd (buses leave Rhoose at 8.45am and 9.45am).

Anyone wishing to submit a resolution for consideration as the National Resolution for 2015 should do so now.

Models for next month's Fashion Show have been selected. Craft Club will meet at 5, Odyn's Fee at 2pm on August 21, when work will begin on the entry for the Christmas Tree Festival; and lunch club will meet at The Highwayman, Nurston at 12.30pm on August 28. (Weather permitting, those wishing to walk should meet at the village pump at 11.45am.)

The raffle was won by Susan Grant and Elsa Jones and the monthly competition by Jan Dally.

The next meeting of Rhoose WI will take place on September 4 at 7.30pm at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when members can enjoy a fashion show by 'Samantha B' of Ewenny. New members and visitors will be welcome.

JJ

Gwyl Cerdd Dant, Porthcawl

GWYL Cerdd Dant Porthcawl a'r Fro Festival Proclamation concert is at 6pm on Thursday, October 16, at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl; admission adults £5, children free.

The national Gwyl Cerdd Dant festival is Wales' biggest one-day festival and is a celebration of Welsh culture.

Every November more than 1,200 children, young people and adults from all over Wales and beyond take part in competitions, ranging from Welsh folk and penillion singing to reciting, instrumental solos and ensembles to folk dancing.

The Gwyl Cerdd Dant also attracts over 2,500 supporters, at least 50 per cent of whom stay in the host locality over the weekend. The event will bring considerable attention to the area as it will be broadcast live on television and radio throughout the day.

The proclamation concert programme is very diverse with an interesting variety of performances by the borough's Welsh medium schools in conjunction with Cantorion Coeti Singers and Penyfai Dancers. Aelwyd yr Urdd Porthcawl will also perform the welcome poem by Bridgend chaired bard Mari George to harp accompaniment.

The evening's proceeds will go towards Gwyl Cerdd Dant Porthcawl a'r Fro Festival's fundraising campaign.

Tickets available from Siop yr Hen Bont, Bridgend, at Bridgend County Borough Council, Welsh medium schools, or at the door.

CYHOEDDI Gŵyl Cerdd Dant Porthcawl a'r Fro 6 yr hwyr nos Iau Hydref yr 16eg, Eglwys yr Holl Saint, Porthcawl; £5 i Oedolion, Plant am Ddim.

Yr Ŵyl Gerdd Dant cenedlaethol yw gŵyl undydd mwyaf Cymru ac mae'n ddathliad o ddiwylliant Cymreig.

Pob mis Tachwedd mae mwy na 1,200 o blant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion o bob cwr o Gymru a thu hwnt yn cymryd rhan mewn cystadlaethau sy'n amrywio o ganu gwerin Cymreig, i gerdd dant, adrodd, unawdau offerynnol ac ensemblau i ddawnsio gwerin.

Mae'r Ŵyl Gerdd Dant hefyd yn denu dros 2,500 o gefnogwyr, gyda tua 50% ohonynt yn aros ym mro'r Ŵyl dros y penwythnos. Bydd y digwyddiad yn dwyn sylw sylweddol i'r ardal gan y bydd yn cael ei darlledu'n fyw ar y teledu ac ar y radio drwy gydol y dydd.

Mae rhaglen y gyngerdd cyhoeddi yn un amrywiol iawn gydag ysgolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg y fwrdeistref yn perfformio arlwy diddorol ar y cŷd â Chantorion Coeti a Dawnswyr Penyfai. Bydd Aelwyd yr Urdd Porthcawl hefyd yn perfformio ac yn datgan cywydd croeso y prifardd Mari George.

Bydd elw'r noson yn mynd tuag at ymgyrch codi arian Gwyl Cerdd Dant Porthcawl a'r Fro 2015.

Tocynnau ar gael o Siop yr Hen Bont ysgolion Cymraeg Bwrdeistref Sirol Penybont neu wrth y drws.

Find The GEM on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Ups and downs of beekeeping

THE beekeeper's year is drawing to a close – but swarming is still taking place.

I have been called out to take care of two this month. However, a changing weather pattern is forecast and this should have some effect on the bees' behaviour.

Warm sunny days have certainly been a boon to all of the pollinating insects. The honeybees have responded very well, and as I have several apiaries to look to, at times I have not been able to keep up with the demand for more space that the expanding colonies require, and this is one of the reasons for the swarming.

Although swarming is a natural occurrence within a honeybee colony, and it is after all how the species ensure their survival, it does not always produce the correct end result.

What do I mean by this?

Let's look at a colony that is in swarming mode, to start with Queen cells are produced, the bees manufacture several so that they have a choice.

When the time is right, off goes the old Queen with a majority of the colony (a swarm), a mixture of old bees, young bees and drones (males). This exodus gives the remaining bees the space they require, and eventually one of those occupied Queen cells will produce a new virgin Queen.

The remaining Queen cells will be destroyed by the bees as they only require one Queen per colony.

Should things go to plan, the new Queen will at some time leave the hive and go on her mating flight. On her return as a mated Queen, the colony is once again in a stable condition and all should be well.

However, I am finding that in the colonies where swarming has occurred, there is no sign of eggs or larvae. This indicates that for some reason a laying Queen is not in residence. The future for this colony is not looking at all good.

Another reason for lack of colony stability is that several of the Queen cells all produce Queens at the same time. This gives rise to several small groups of bees, plus one of the several new Queens leaving the colony as a cast (a handful of bees).

This creates a very unstable condition and as bee numbers are reduced, there are not enough in residence to get things under control and provide the balance that is required. A colony without a functioning Queen is going to fail!

As I have several colonies in this state, I could see them die out. It is my intention to unite these bees without a Queen to others that have one, (a later article will explain this).

If all goes according to plan, the survival of a doomed colony will occur.

Beekeeping does have its ups and downs, and this year has provided me with some honey, as well as problems that I may or may not be able to solve. Programmes on TV show only the ups of beekeeping and many a newcomer is going to be very perplexed on occasions.

The bees at least know what they are doing, even if the beekeeper at times does not.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Jason healing slowly... *and issues warning on spider danger*

by TIM CHAPMAN

TWO weeks ago, The GEM told the astonishing story of how a local Barry man had suffered following a spider bite – and had been told in hospital that further delay could have resulted in the amputation of his foot.

Thousands of people saw Jason Butler's story in The GEM newspaper and in its online editions. It even made national headlines.

The good news is that Jason (41) is continuing to make a recovery, although he is still enduring a lot of pain.

At the time of the bite, he was sorting things out in the shed attached to the side of his house. Five spiders ran out and he recalled: "One bit me on the ankle. I felt the pinch, grabbed it and pulled it off."

Visits to the doctor's and courses in antibiotics failed to stem the swelling. The site of the bite marks became a wound. Jason is thankful that his mum Susan stepped in and insisted that he go to the University Hospital of Wales.

He had to have two operations to drain the infection and fluid and was told that if he had delayed his visit a further 24 hours he could have been facing amputation of the foot.

Jason had to have follow-up treatment at the Heath and bumped into a woman whose thigh was swelling up after being bitten by a spider.

He identified his 'assailant' as a False Widow spider and wanted to warn people in Barry and the rest of the Vale through The GEM as to the dangers it posed.

Jason's wife Sonia, who is helping to care for him, said this week: "He is improving slowly, and the wound is healing gradually 'inside-out'. Jason is still in pain and on powerful painkillers. He is going to have tests to see if there is any nerve damage."

The False Widow.

Jason added: "I'm on morphine and if I catch my foot I get stabbing pains. I wouldn't like to see anyone go through this.

"I think I'm on the right track and that there has been a tremendous improvement on the way it was. I'm not sure if there has been nerve damage, though." He has to make a weekly visit to the GP who is monitoring the ankle.

Two GEM readers, John Wyatt and Tony Walters, called to say they had seen False Widows; John saw one in his garage and Tony in the shed.

Last week my dog Spike was bitten while he was out in the garden and he is now fighting for his life under the care of an animal surgeon in Bristol.

At first, vets thought he'd suffered a 'soft tissue' injury. But then his left side and leg swelled alarmingly and the surgeon shaved him and identified two bite marks about a centimetre apart. It looks as if he has been bitten by a spider or an adder.

We are experiencing unusually warm and muggy weather which might be encouraging certain insects, arachnids and reptiles, into the open.

While these incidents are relatively isolated, my advice to parents and grandparents is to ensure that children don't run around the garden barefoot. I think it is also advisable to be careful if you are sorting things out in a confined area, shed or garage.

Catfest goes for a Guinness World record attempt

CATS Protection Bridgend's adoption centre is urging people to support a cat-themed Guinness world record bid at Catfest 2014, on Saturday, August 16.

The event is being held to raise awareness and much-needed funds for the 180 plus cats and kittens currently homed at the Bridgend Adoption Centre, including recent additions, four-week-old Olivia and her littermates Opal, Oz and Orla.

The kittens were admitted to the centre in very poor condition, suffering from malnutrition and possible abuse; Olivia in particular weighed just 0.2kg and had a bruised, swollen face, alongside an injured hind foot.

The kittens are on the road to recovery, but funds are needed to help with continuing care for the 180 cats at the centre on Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin.

Catfest 2014 will not only raise much-needed funds, but will see hopeful record breakers celebrating the centre's 20th anniversary by attempting to set the record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats.

Taking place between 10.30am and 4pm, entrance is £1 for adults, and 50p for children, with all money going to charity. The record attempt takes place between 2pm–3pm.

Visitors will be able to take part in fun activities, and there are special guests Mickey Mouse and Hello Kitty. There will also be face painting, stalls and a bouncy castle.

Centre manager, Sue Dobbs, said: "Any cat costume, domestic or wild can be represented and we are looking forward to seeing lots of marvellous mogs, grumpy cats, wild whiskers, posh paws and cute kitties at Catfest 2014."

For full details, call 01656 723496, visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk or turn up from 10.30am on Saturday, August 16.

Pals' charity cycle ride for Marie Curie hospice

ABOVE: Two friends Ride London – Surrey in memory of Sara Cater.

TWO friends from Cowbridge, Bob Cater and Glyn Thomas, completed the Ride London-Surrey 100 cycle last weekend, raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of Sara Cater, who lost her battle with cancer in August 2012.

With more than 20,000 cyclists taking part, the ride started at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London and travelled through the city to Surrey, before making its way back into London and finishing along The Mall.

Despite the race being badly affected by the remnants of Hurricane Bertha, with riders facing treacherous conditions due to torrential rain, months of training with their friends at CRFC Bike Club paid dividends – and the pair finished the course in a good time.

Bob and Glyn would like to thank their families, friends, colleagues and Glyn's employer UK Steel Enterprise Ltd, for their support, all of which has enabled them to exceed their £2,000 fundraising target for the charity which runs the hospice in Penarth.

Bob said: "It was a little disappointing that the original route was changed, but understandable given the dangerous conditions which provided some added challenges for us.

"We were lucky to make it around without any incidents and despite the weather, the number of supporters along the route during the ride made for a fantastic experience.

"We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity and support in doing this challenge and would like to thank everyone who has helped us raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

"The staff at Marie Curie make a huge difference in the worst of situations, the work they do is incredible and completely reliant on public donations."

If anyone would like to sponsor Bob and Glyn, please visit their sponsorship page at www.justgiving.com/bobandglyn1/

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D839.

- **£2,000:** 596451.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 250501, 561100, 180666, 148669, 427645, 528157, 688958, 114446, 683031, 481224, 458317, 888545, 846612, 894152, 989954, 756049, 535412, 239629, 168482, 111627.
- **£5:** 493290, 791271, 516822, 727019, 175710, 593151, 460590, 852621, 190791, 282431, 249957, 503158, 173279, 388123, 347171, 199021, 543190, 372350, 819278, 229024, 469851, 337486, 588060, 335115, 101149, 164354, 395786, 552953, 151859, 846958, 282724, 347863, 314471, 368930, 653174, 496991, 396190, 564164, 741203, 969929, 105027, 788640, 899556, 793321, 211839, 400803, 393252, 467378, 537006, 674848, 469447, 859654, 370083, 324301, 491659, 158603, 234557, 428510, 00298, 001379.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

VCVCS WORK IS HIGHLIGHTED AT EISTEDDFOD

A HERITAGE Lottery project 'Barry – A New Community', supported by Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS), was showcased at the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli last week.

It focuses on Barry during the boom years of the docks and coincides with the 100 year anniversary of World War One and Jamie Baker from VCVS showed local AM Jane Hutt a display of Barry family history.

The AM also congratulated the Learners' Choir, including Vale singers, directed by Dot Connell, which won first prize in the learners' section.

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Jamie Baker from VCVS at the Eisteddfod.

Hospice receives £7,765 donation

THE Perkins family have held their successful annual fundraiser in memory of the late Mrs Barbara Perkins, with proceeds donated to Marie Curie hospice, Penarth.

The fabulous summer weather marked the start of a most enjoyable evening held at Cottrell Park Golf Club's marquee on July 5.

The 250 guests danced to music by Leighton Jones, singing and playing guitar.

The auctioneer was Robin Jones of Watts and Morgan, who did a great job of getting through in excess of 30 plus items.

The event made a grand total of £7,765, and in all over the last three years, over £25,000 has been donated. The family would like to give a huge thank you to all involved with organising, the staff at Cottrell Park, the generosity of the people who donated the prizes and to the people who attended.

We look forward to seeing you all in June 2015.

Follow The GEM on Twitter @gem_news

Gas safety checks at local takeaways

LOCAL businesses are being warned to ensure that only trained gas engineers are employed to carry out work on their premises.

Following a spate of instances where unregistered engineers have carried out work using false certificates, public protection officers from the Vale Council are currently carrying out safety checks at Barry takeaways.

"Establishments have been provided with information that will allow the owners to check the credentials of any gas engineer before they begin the work," a spokesperson said.

"Work carried out by a non-registered engineer will not be recognised as being carried out by a competent person and both the gas engineer and the owner could be prosecuted.

"The safety certificate provided would be null and void and it might transpire that your gas installation is not safe," the spokesperson warned.

"Before engaging anyone to carry out gas work owners should check if the business is registered, and check the engineers are qualified to carry out the type of work you require and work on the type of equipment you have.

"Above all, you should check the identity and qualifications of the engineer on arrival by looking at their Gas Safe Licence Card."

For further information, contact Regservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or register a service request on 01446 709105.

Registered businesses and engineers can be found on the Gas Safe website at http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/.

Alternatively, Gas Safe can be contacted via telephone on 0800 408 5500.

GEM reader gives junk mail tips...

SOME weeks ago you published an article from Andrew RT Davies which discussed the nuisance of unsolicited junk mail.

My wife and I have dealt with this mail in what we consider to be a fairly novel way, which I believe if every household adopted it would serve to discourage the senders from bombarding us with this rubbish.

Our solution is to remove our address from any of the paperwork contained in the letter and then put it into any return envelope supplied, along with any other leaflet or unsolicited letter which has come through the door and then post it back to the sender.

This has the following effects: the sender has to pay for the return postage to have their junk returned to them; the sender has to pay someone to open and sort the rubbish; the sender then has to pay for the paper to be recycled.

It seems to me that if enough of us were to follow this procedure, the cost to the senders would be so high that they would be discouraged from plaguing us with their rubbish.

I hope that if you publish this letter it will encourage others to copy our solution.

Dean T Cross,
Barry.

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LIFEGUARDS' JUNIOR, SENIOR AND MASTERS' TEAMS SHINE IN WELSH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior and senior team.

Masters' team.

THE summer season of competitions started for Rhoose Lifeguards with the masters team travelling to St David's, Pembrokeshire for the Welsh Surf Life Saving Welsh Championships on July 26.

A smaller team than previous years were still keen to take on the events, including surf ski and board races, sea swims, ocean man and lady, beach sprints, long runs and beach flags, as well as relays in many of the above.

Conditions at lifeguard events over recent years have been quite challenging, but this year were excellent, with sunshine all day and calm sea conditions.

The team of Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Melissa Downton, Heddus Davies, Dominic Lee, Jamie Downton and Jon Foster all achieved medals either in the individual or relay events, with special congratulations to Karen, Melissa, Heddus and Jon for winning gold medals in their 'individual' races.

Well done to the masters team who finished in fourth place overall and thank you also to Melissa for arranging the 'after competition' meal for the team and their families.

A list of the individual medal winners in their age categories are: Heddus Davies – Gold 1km run, Gold board race, Silver beach sprint, Bronze surf swim; Jon Foster – Gold 1km run, Silver beach flags, Silver beach sprint; Melissa Downton – Gold 1km run, Silver beach sprint, Bronze beach flags, Bronze surf swim, Bronze board race; Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – Gold board race, Gold surf swim, Gold ski race, Silver ocean lady; Dominic Lee – Silver 1km run.

Following a successful competition for the masters team, the weekend of August 2 and 3 saw the turn of the junior and senior teams to take part in the Welsh Championships, this time held over two days at Aberavon beach.

Kelsea and Ellie Peterson and Georgia Wall.

Ladies relay team.

With a team of 13 juniors and two seniors (with Karen from the masters team competing for the senior team) the teams again showed some very impressive performances in the beach and sea events.

The team, managed by Steve Baker, junior coordinator, won many medals with 'individual' gold medals awarded to Welsh champions Kelsea Peterson and Ellie Peterson from the junior team and Tanara O'Neill from the seniors.

A number of gold medals in the team and relay events were also awarded to Karen and Tanara (double ski), Sara and Lauren (double ski and board rescue), Maisie and Kelsea (double ski), Alex and Finn (double ski) and Dyfan, Tomos, Ellie and Jessica (sprint relay), Lauren, Karen and Tanara (ski relay), Kelsea, Ellie and Georgia (ski relay) and Kelsea, Ellie and Jessica (board relay).

The junior team finished in third place with the seniors achieving sixth place overall. Well done all, for an excellent weekend, and thanks to everyone involved with the club who helped with marshalling and other duties.

INDIVIDUAL MEDALS WINNERS

Kelsea Peterson – Gold ski race, Gold board race, Gold ocean lady, Gold beach flags, Bronze surf swim; Lauren Blake – Silver ski race, Silver board race, Silver ocean lady; Sara Philips – Bronze board race, Bronze ocean lady; Ellie Peterson – Gold beach flags, Silver beach sprint; Jessica Wadey – Bronze beach sprint; Jason Grice – Silver ski race; Alex Parry – Bronze ski race; Tomos Wilshaw – Bronze board race; Tanara O'Neill – Gold ski race; Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – Silver ski race, Silver board race.

Junior team: Kelsea Peterson, Ellie Peterson, Lauren Blake, Sara Phillips, Jessica Wadey, Maisie James, Georgia Wall, Jason Grice, Alex Parry, Finn Rees, Tomos Wilshaw, Dyfan Goode, Declan Ewington.

Senior team: Tanara O'Neill and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.

We will be reporting again soon following the Nippers competition, again being held at Aberavon.

Sprint relay team.

Maise James and Kelsea Peterson.

Men's relay team.

Finn Rees and Alex Parry.

Jason Grice and Dyfan Goode.

Senior ladies' relay team.

Sara Phillips and Lauren Blake.

PORTHCAWL REMEMBERS THE GREAT WAR WITH MUSEUM AS CENTREPIECE

PC 835 Paul Harris, who served with MoD Security, in the 1910 South Wales Constabulary uniform which his grandfather wore during World War One, and which his father wore during World War Two.

Paul and Ceri (alias Emmeline Pankhurst) Joseph at the start of a busy day.

Line-up of members of Porthcawl branch British Legion – the standard bearer is Ruth Birch.

Coun Gary Thomas, Mayor of BCBC in working class period costume.

ABOVE: Some of the YMCA team.

Report and photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

THANKS to good organisation and equally good weather, the event held over the weekend of August 2/3 in Porthcawl to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War One, was a great success.

The town went back in time to 1914 and the events and the weather certainly brought the crowds out to pack John Street for the occasion.

An early start was made by Ceri and Paul Joseph, who arrived very early at the museum in a vintage Austin Seven car. The magnificent World War One exhibition in the Porthcawl Museum was formally opened at 10am by the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Elizabeth Singer, and the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Sean Aspey.

They were joined later in the morning by the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Kate Thomas.

As well as the permanent World War One exhibition in the museum, there were demonstrations given of Morse code and amateur radio broadcasts. The Y Centre was filled with exhibits and stands of all descriptions, and the illustrated talks were packed out to capacity.

The girls in the back room at the YMCA provided a continuous supply of tea, coffee and cakes throughout the day. There were traders and shows in John Street and music at the bandstand by the Porthcawl Community Orchestra.

Shops had been encouraged to decorate their windows to commemorate World War One and period costumes were the order of the day.

Prizes were given for the best dressed shop windows and the best period costumes for both children and adults.

The Suffragettes, led by Emmeline Pankhurst (alias Ceri Joseph), caused quite a stir when they noisily marched down John Street for a confrontation with representatives of both the law and Army outside the museum, where one of their members was chained to the railings.

A very eventful day ended with a World War One commemorative service in All Saints' Church, led by the Rector of Porthcawl, Canon Philip Masson. In the Service, he placed emphasis on the 400 Servicemen who left Porthcawl to take part in World War One and the 108 who did not return.

The lighting of 400 candles by members of the congregation was led by Elizabeth Singer. Canon Phillip Masson brought the service to its conclusion by extinguishing 108 candles in memory of those who did not return.

After the service, a group led by Canon Masson gathered at the War Memorial for a quiet moment of reflection.

John Berry from the Y Centre, welcoming the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Elizabeth Singer.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Sean Aspey, with his Consort Pat Aspey. Sean is in the period costume of the leader of the Porthcawl Town Council 1914.

LEFT: The standards are lowered outside Porthcawl Museum in John Street on Saturday morning.

PUTTING OUT CANDLES TO SYMBOLISE THOSE WHO DID NOT RETURN TO TOWN

Report and photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

BELOW: A total of 400 candles were lit at All Saints' Church, but 108 were extinguished, to symbolise the soldiers who did not return to Porthcawl.

ABOVE and RIGHT: The High Sheriff, Liz Singer, and husband Andrew were shown around the exhibition.

ABOVE: The Bridgend branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society in the YMCA Internet Suite.

Joint winners of best children's period costume were Carys and Rhiannon of Pen-y-Fai.

A Service of Remembrance at All Saints' Church was conducted by Canon Phillip Masson. 400 candles were lit by the congregation for those who went to war from Porthcawl, of which 108 were extinguished at the end of the service by the Canon for those who did not return.

Army and St John's Ambulance nurses, all in 1914 period costume.

First prize best dressed window went to Janz Art in Well Street.

Second prize best dressed window went to Gutteridge's.

The Suffragettes march and (left) are confronted by the authorities.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(tel 01656 725219)***

Pair up with a canine couple!

DOGS Trust Bridgend is urging potential dog owners to do a 'double take' before rehoming a single dog and consider offering a home to a pair.

Dogs have been scampering into the charity's rehoming centre two by two and staff are concerned that they are being overlooked in favour of single dogs.

The centre has three pairs of similar dogs looking for loving homes for life, said Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre manager, Beverley Price.

"It's unusual for us to have so many pairs of the same breed of dog in all at once. Each pair is very attached – like 'two pups in a pod' – so it wouldn't be fair to split them up. They all have such sweet characters and will settle into their new home well with their best friend by their side."

"Rehoming a pair of dogs can be incredibly rewarding. We're appealing to anyone who thinks that they can offer them a home together to please get in touch."

Pairs of dogs looking for new homes include: Poppy and Holly are 10-year-old Yorkshire Terrier sisters who have been together all their lives.

They are sweet natured older ladies who can be a little timid when they first meet people but will soon grow to love you as much as they love each other. They can live with older children and need a quiet home where they can go on gentle walks and potter around the garden.

Six-year-old Angel and Scarlet are nervous dogs, devoted to each other, who need a patient, adult home with experienced owners prepared to devote the time needed to help them settle in and feel part of the family. These beautiful girls will make loving pets in the right homes.

Three-year-old Rosie and Lowmo, four, are a fantastic double act. They are fun-loving affectionate Boxers with boundless energy looking for active owners who will enjoy keeping up with their zest for life.

If you think you could offer a home to one of these pretty pairs, call Dogs Trust Bridgend directly on 01656 725 219 or visit the centre at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

Mixed results for bowlers

RHOOSE Bowls Club Men's team have experienced mixed results in recent matches.

On Wednesday, August 6, they travelled to Murch and produced a convincing win on the grass, securing 12 points.

On Saturday August 9, they were away again in their CDML match at Merthyr. This time they were not successful, only winning on the rink skipped by Ron Ball. This secured two points for the team.

The ladies' team has experienced defeats in their final two league matches. In a heavy defeat to Llantwit Major, the only winning rink was the one skipped by Jo Hopkins.

The final league match at Cadoxton saw them lose on all three rinks. The team did, however, win their final DR match at home against Barry Athletic.

PICNIC FUN WITH PEPPA PIG – *in Welsh!*

PEPPA PIG and Fireman Sam were special guests recently at Welsh medium family fun day held at Palmerston centre, Barry.

Families from all around the Vale dropped in to enjoy a range of activities conducted through the medium of Welsh, including cake decorating, making paper bunting and sewing animal glove puppets. Small children took part in Amser Stori, while the creche staff provided activities for the under-fives.

During the afternoon, the Urdd provided sports and games on the park and the children enjoyed trying different sports; even participating in a yoga lesson at the end of the day!

At teatime, parents and children took a well earned rest and enjoyed a Peppa Pig picnic. Children were invited to bring their teddies and Peppa Pig herself dropped in and enjoyed a dance with the children and a celebrity photoshoot.

Welsh medium activities continue to take place throughout the summer on Monday evenings with a programme of activities including a quiz night on August 11, from 6.30pm; a talk by Gareth Thomas, author of the newly published novel 'A Welsh Dawn' on August 18.

Welsh learners are welcome to join the free revision sessions taking place on the same evenings from 7pm – 9pm.

Excited Welsh speaking children meet Peppa Pig.

BU cyffro mawr yng Nghanolfan Palmerston, Y Barri, pan ddaeth Peppa Pinc a Sam Tân i ymuno yn hwyl y prynhawniau i'r teulu ar Orffennaf 21 a 28.

Daeth teuluoedd o bob cwr o'r Fro i gael tro ar weithgareddau amrywiol gan gynnwys addurno teisennau, gwnio pypedau llaw, gwneud baneri lliwgar, gwrando ar storiau a chwarae yn y feithrinfa.

Trwy gydol y prynhawn cafodd y plant egniol gyfle i drio chwaraeon amrywiol gyda staff yr Urdd yn yr awyr iach, ac hyd yn oed gwneud rhywfaint o Ioga i orffen.

Amser te daeth y plant â'u tedis i gael picnic gyda Peppa Pinc, a chafwyd llawer o hwyl a sbri yn dawnsio a chael tynnu llun gyda'r cymeriad poblogaidd.

Bydd nosweithiau Llun Cymraeg Palmerston yn parhau dros yr haf, gyda noson ffilm ar Awst 4, noson gwis ar yr 11eg, a sgwrs gan yr awdur Gareth Thomas ar y 18fed, yn tafod ei nofel newydd "A Welsh Dawn", sy'n ymwneud â Chymru'r 1950au.

Bydd croeso i ddysgwyr Cymraeg i Oedolion i'r gwersi adolygu am ddim ar yr un dyddiadau o 7pm – 9pm.

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3 Bedrooms
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£135,950 C75

Roberts Close, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps
Views of Countryside
Quiet Close
£180,000 D56

Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
132' Garden
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£300,000 D56

Tennyson Way, Llantwit Major
5 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Extended
£395,000 D55

St Michaels Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Combi GCH
Southerly Rear
£165,000 D63

Boverton Brook, Boverton
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Conservatory
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£339,950 E48

Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£210,000 C72

Tresilian Close, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Sought after location
£164,950 D59

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
70' Garden.
Requires Modernising.
£104,950 E42

Crawshay Drive, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
Southerly Rear
£125,000 D62

Pinewood Square, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Attic Room
Kitchen/Diner
£94,950 E48

Highmeadow, Llantwit Major
3 Bed Dormer
GCH Combi
Refurbished 2012
£249,950 tbc

Waun Gron, Llantwit Major
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Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u dosbarthu, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

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Dyddiedig 14 Awst 2014

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 12 WELSH ST DONATS) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

The above order, made on the 18th day of July 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert part of the Public Footpath No 12 Welsh St Donats running from NGR 302756 176204 to NGR 302627 176338 to a line running from NGR 302809 176289 to NGR 302627 176338 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 11th day of September 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 14th day of August 2014

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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Family Notices

WILLIAMS
Joan

Well-known former shopkeeper of Park Crescent, Barry, died peacefully on August 9th at College Fields Nursing Home; treasured wife of the late Bryn, loving mother of Nigel and Sarah, proud Nana of Peter, Robert and Owen.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. A service of thanksgiving for her life will take place at Barry Crematorium on Tuesday August 19th at 12 noon. Nigel and Sarah request that people wear something colourful to reflect Joan's personality.

Sincere thanks to the compassionate staff of College Fields who have cared for Joan so well and laughed with her so often. The family would welcome donations in lieu of flowers to College Fields Residents' Fund, College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, CF62 8LE.

PYCROFT
David

Peacefully on August 6th at Marie Curie Holme Tower, Penarth with his cherished son Rhys at his bedside, David, devoted husband of the late Glad and special father-in-law of Samie, an adored bampy of Howie and Bump.

David will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Vale Funeral Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Monday, 18th August at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Penarth in memory of David.

The family requests that colourful clothing be worn to reflect on David's character and personality. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

BAKER
Albert Austin

Peacefully on August 7, at his home in Rhoose, Bert, beloved husband and best friend of Marian, dearly loved father of Helen and David, dear father-in-law of Richard and Ula, much loved grandfather of Carys and Chloe.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday August 18, service and cremation 11.15am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request.

CRAIG
Robert (Bob)

Suddenly on 4th August, Bob aged 91 years of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Rita, much loved dad to David, father-in-law to Eileen. Loving grandad to Tim, Neal and Natalie and a dearly loved great granbob to Danielle, Leo, Ephram, James and Sofia.

Funeral service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 18th August at 2.15pm (where all please meet). Family flowers only please.

All enquiries to W A Brown & Son 01446 792489.

Carla Doonan

Geoff & Jenny Doonan & family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support on the passing of their daughter.

Special thanks also to the Paramedics, ambulance crew and Police for their prompt and respectful attendance.

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Birth Notices

Congratulations
Tristan & Ning FRANCIS
on the birth of
Sebastian Robert Lei
on Wednesday 6th August 2014
A little brother for Vincent & Talia!
With lots of love from Mum & Dad, Nathan, Hannah, Libby, Eloise & Edward, Aaron & Julia, Jotham & Helene, Faith & Glyn xxx

Thank You

Letter of Thanks

Many thanks for all the cards and good wishes from family and friends on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
Faith and Glyn Francis.

HAZEL

Would like to say a special
THANK YOU
to Natasia and the Gentleman who came to her assistance when she recently fell in Llantwit Major beside the Co-op. They also took her home to St Athan.
"You are both angels in disguise"
Thank you so much for helping me.

Lost & Found

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Birthdays

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Sarah Smith
on 1st January
Photo
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Saints are ten out of ten!

BARRY Saints played host to the Knap FC on Sunday, which turned out to be a one sided affair.

As there were a few key players missing, it was a chance to see a different style of play. From the outset, the Saints dominated and quick ball was flowing from the hands of Elston to the back four.

With a strong Saints' defence, the Knap never looked likely to threaten them. With high work rate from the middle of Cummings and Evans, Saints went one up and soon found another, through a well-worked goal.

The Saints were now controlling the game and a third and a fourth were to follow just before the halftime whistle.

Manager Long had very little to talk about on the side of the pitch, as the lads had had a great half, and was extremely happy with play.

The second half had plenty more goals in it and the Saints notched a further six for a 10-0 win, and a great end to pre-season.

Saints start their new life in Division 2 with a home game against Railway Wanderers, which will be a hard opener as they look for a third promotion this year. **GL**

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Cowbridge's Sam signs for Bristol Rovers FC!

ABOVE: Sam (right) pictured with classmate Logan Roach, and RIGHT: Putting pen to paper as he signs up with the under-14 academy at Bristol Rovers.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive schoolboy, Sam Green, has joined classmate Logan Roach at Bristol Rovers FC under-14s academy.

After a brief successful summer trial with the Bristol club, Sam put pen to paper to join the under-14s for the forthcoming season.

He joins Logan, who has already been at the club for a couple of seasons.

Having two boys from the same school year is a great achievement and they are both looking forward to the start of the season.

Both boys are also in the Cardiff and Vale Schoolboys County team.

Bristol Rovers have a very focused youth development pathway and are recognised for bringing through young talent and providing high level opportunities, balanced educational and welfare programmes .

Sam played his club football with Cogan Coronation last season, after starting his football career with Cowbridge Town FC. **GG**

Jonathan serves up a real treat!

HOW many people queueing up for their hog roast bap at Tim Vaughan's recent owner's day at Pant Wilkin Stables at Aberthin recently knew that the man who was serving them was once the former leading amateur rider Jonathan Tudor, of Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend?

Butcher Jonathan, who was well known for his successes on horses such as St Helen's Boy, Andrea's Boy and Precious Link, landed a surprise win in prestigious The Times Hunter Chase at Towcester back in 1988 on St Helen's Boy, which must rank as one of the highlights of his race riding career.

However, one win that Jonathan, who used to play hooker for Cowbridge seconds, will never forget, was his very first in 1983, when he steered home Bright Hope at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Steeplechases.

And the reason he won't forget? It was his 18th birthday!

These days, Jonathan is still very much involved in hunt-racing, as a leading trainer of point-to-pointers.

BRIAN LEE

Millwood cap off Cup run with victory

MILLWOOD finished their Munro Cup games with a 50 per cent win ratio after this game against Cadoxton.

After the fourth end, Millwood were trailing Cadoxton by eight shots at 11-19, and after the ninth end the deficit had been reduced to only three shots to Cadoxton by 33-36.

On the 13th end there was a swing in the lead to Millwood by four shots to 52-48, and at the 18th end, Millwood had the game won by a 16 shot margin, 74-58.

A big thank you to all players for a very long and sometimes frustrating Munro Cup run; next season is up in the air regarding the change in format, so hopefully there won't be too much change to cope with!

In the last game for Millwood in Division 3 this season, which saw them hoping for a good win to keep them in contention for a high spot in the division, coming away from a difficult away game against a fairly difficult green to read at Ynyscynon saw the team earn a welcome 10-4 win.

The winning margin was a healthy 22 shots, thankfully down to rink one winning by 26 shots.

Millwood were 27 – 12 shots up after the first five ends, keeping the momentum going by leading after 10 ends by 47-31.

They increased the lead after 15 ends by 68-47, ending after 21 ends by the 22 shots margin.

During the Division 3 games this season, Millwood won seven and lost three, but as previously stated, with the new format for the divisions, we'll just have to see where what division we end up in.

Well done to all the players who participated in the season's matches (division 3 and division 5) because without you there wouldn't be a club. Thank you.

The next game is a Division 5 game away to Caerphilly Social, the 'A' side's final Division 5 game.

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BAD RESULT SEES ROMILLY'S TITLE CHANCES DENTED

BARRY Romilly travelled to Ystrad Mynach on August 9 to play their penultimate CML Division League game, looking for a big win to keep their hopes alive of a first league title.

On a decent paced green, Romilly began poorly against a side who were bottom of the league and without a win and found themselves seven shots behind at the fifth end, with only Brian Foscolo's rink ahead.

By the 10th end, the 'Rom' were further behind 30 – 40 with Graham Cogbill's rink struggling and behind by 11 shots, while the rinks of Mel Newman and Jeff Wright were battling hard to stay in touch with their opponents and were down by one and four shots respectively, with Foscolo's rink still ahead by six.

The game continued in the same vein up to the 15th end where the overall score was 46 – 59 in favour of Ystrad, with many of the Romilly players not showing the form which had pushed them to the top of the league.

Between ends 16 and 20 Romilly kept reducing the deficit and by end 20 they were just three behind going into the last end, putting themselves in with a good chance of pulling off a victory.

The final ends saw the rinks of Foscolo and Cogbill pick up three shots each but the rinks of Newman and Wright dropped four shots apiece which was disappointing certainly for Jeff Wright's rink, who had scored 10 shots on the previous five ends without reply to lead by two.

Unfortunately, Romilly lost two more shots to lose overall by five shots, 73 – 78, and collect just two points thanks to the rink of Brian Foscolo winning by 11 shots.

Romilly have lost their chance of the league title but have already ensured their first division place in next year's new league format with only eight teams in each of the divisions playing fourteen games on a home and away basis.

The last league game of the season takes place on Saturday at Romilly Park against Troedyrhiw, starting at 2.30pm. **FP**

Day to forget for the Sully Centurions

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club's 1st XI were grateful to the rain after their match at Rhoose was abandoned at the halfway stage with their opponents, Welsh Asians, in a commanding position.

Centurions' 2nd XI, with only nine men due to all sorts of unavailability, hosted second in the table Newbridge and came off second best in a match that was punctuated with interruptions for rain.

The visitors batted first and racked up a score of 253 for 3, with opener Wellington making a century and James hitting 54.

The bowlers were put to the sword, but young Gethin Hicks continues to impress as he took two wickets from his five overs.

The Centurions' innings was a bit of a disaster, with wickets falling regularly. Ricky Griffett, batting at number three, hit a fine 30 before being bowled by James, but of the rest of the batsmen, only Munim Khan (16) reached double figures and Sully were all out for just 78.

Pick of the Newbridge bowlers was James, who added to his half century with the bat with a return of 3 for 14 off nine overs.

This was definitely one to forget for Centurions.

Sully Centurions II 78 all out, Newbridge II 253-3. **MF**

Ladies day at Wenvoe golf club is a success

LADIES open day at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club is always a popular event and this year was no exception with a good entry rewarded by yet another warm and sunny day.

The stableford competition involved teams of three players with the best two scores to count, and you could almost guarantee a close finish was on the cards.

Local knowledge proved to be a major contribution as Lynda Campbell, Fran Grant and Tina Church, all members of the home club, posted the winning score of 85 points.

Close on their heels were Sheila Davies, Sue Dayananda and Karen Ball, again from Wenvoe Castle, who just missed out with 84 points.

Eirlys Thomas, Joan Bool and Annette Davies from Brynmeadows Golf Club took third place with 80 points.

Lynda Campbell also took the prize for the longest drive on the 18th and Val Evans (Vale of Glamorgan) was nearest the pin, measured at 1.82 metres, on the second hole

A special prize for scoring a two went to three players, Sheila Davies of Wenvoe Castle (second), Val Evans of the Vale of Glamorgan (15th) and Jen Thomas of Cottrell Park (second). Each player received eight balls.

Immediate past club captain Barrie Jones, together with Trish Walker, lady captain, presented the prizes and thanked the members of the ladies and seniors sections for their part in organising the day with special appreciation to Wendy Motton for her management of the event.

Once again, the golf course was presented in a magnificent condition and players were highly complimentary about the quality of the greens, which have a gained a deserved reputation for being the among the best in the region. **BW**

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Mixed week of results for the Millwood bowlers

MILLWOOD A suffered a crushing blow to their hopes of staying in contention towards the top positions in the Division, by losing by 55 shots to Roath Park.

At the fifth end, Millwood were only three shots behind at 18-21, but by the 10th end the margin to Roath Park had gone up to 16, at 30-46.

Millwood could not reduce the deficit and after 15 ends were 41-67 shots adrift, only to lose after the 21st end by 51-106.

This meant the maximum 14 points went to Roath Park leaving Millwood with only two matches left to gain as many points as possible.

DINAS DEFEAT

Again, Millwood found it hard to overcome Dinas Powys, losing this cup game by 22 shots. Millwood only managed to pick up one point, as only one rink managed a draw.

From the fourth end, Millwood were a matter of 24 shots down at 3-27, and after nine ends were a matter of 30 shots adrift at 21-51.

At the end of the 14th, Millwood were 41-70 shots down, but did manage to pull some back to lose 58-80 after the 18th.

WATTSTOWN WINNERS

Millwood ran out victors over Wattstown in this clash between teams fighting to keep high league positions, by a margin of 11 shots, ensuring a valuable 12-2 points total.

Millwood started the game well, and after five ends were 23–13 ahead. After the 10th end, there was a 39 –27 advantage to Millwood. On the 15th end, Millwood had a 57–43 lead, and the game ended with an 11-shot winning margin.

All credit to Wattstown for giving Millwood a very tough game, with both sides pulling off some superb shots.

DH

RHOOSE WIN ONE AND LOSE ONE!

AFTER a week of inactivity, Rhoose Bowls Club men's team travelled to Ystrad Mynach for their CDML Division 4 match.

Although three rinks lost by a slim margin overal, the side won by eight shots, because Ron Ball's rink won by 13. Halfway through the match, the other three rinks had been well behind, but they caught up in dramatic fashion.

Les Parsons Jnr's rink was unlucky to lose by one shot after their third trailed the jack to the opposition on the last end, giving them the vital shot.

With two home matches to play, the team is looking forward with confidence to a high placing in the league.

The ladies' team travelled to BP Sully for their double rink match on Tuesday. Faced with a green with very little grass on it, Rhoose took a while to gauge the weight.

Sue Dance's team were unlucky to lose a close game by just three shots, as on the 14th end the score was 20 shots to 10 in favour of BP.

The other rink found difficulty securing any shots and were trounced 34 shots to 9.

JH

Athletic on for promotion

BARRY Athletic bowls club first team kept up their emphatic form with another two wins over a four day period.

First up for the Athletic was a re-arranged night game at home to fellow title rivals and Carruthers Shield semi-finalists, Whitchurch on August 5.

In a game cut short to 18 ends due to weather conditions and lack of light, it was the Athletic who stamped their authority to lead by 24 shots after just five ends, before a heavy rainfall stopped play for around 30 minutes.

Despite Whitchurch pleas to get the game abandoned, the weather cleared up and the green maintained a superb surface and the game carried on.

The delay affected the home side slightly but in the end they managed to hold on for another comfortable victory to pick up a valuable 13 points to Whitchurch's 1.

Top rink honours went to Dave Snelling, Paul Webley, Ben Parrish and David Wright, who recorded an excellent 20 shot victory over junior international Jonathan Williams and his rink.

Rink scores: J Beanland, J Killin, K Harris and M Clarke 18-18; T Bishop, C Wright, P Rogers and R Horgan 22-18; D Snelling, P Webley, B Parrish and D Wright 31-11; L Peters, D Jones, G Whittaker and G Thomas 19-16. Final score: Barry Athletic (13) 90-63 (1) Whitchurch.

Next up for Athletic was another home encounter against Pontyclun, who came to Barry deeply involved at the wrong end of the table and knowing any points taken would boost their survival hopes.

However, Barry, missing a number of regular first team members, showed their strength in depth this season to secure another massive victory and pick up the maximum 14 points on offer.

All of the home quartets won comfortably but top dogs for the day were Phil Killin, Dan Jones, Geoff Whittaker and the ever impressive Glyn Thomas, beating Alan Malkin and his rink by 25 shots.

Rink scores: T Bishop, G Jones, P Rogers and R Horgan 28-21; D Snelling, D Williams, P Webley and B Parrish 23-10; J Beanland, J Killin, K Harris and M Clarke 25-16; P Killin, D Jones, G Whittaker and G Thomas 34-9. Final score: Barry Athletic (14) 110-56 (0) Pontyclun.

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Cottrell ladies enjoy away trip

COTTRELL PARK ladies were extremely lucky to spend three days away in glorious sunny weather in beautiful countryside at Tracey Park Golf and Country Club near Bath.

This was an extreme contrast to the very wet weather on the away day earlier in the year.

The first day began with bacon rolls and a Texas Scramble competition on the Crown course, won by Vicki Long, Patsie Smith, Helen Evans and Tessa Matthews.

The second day was an individual Stableford competition on the more challenging Cromwell course, for the Lady Cottrella trophy, which was won by Chris Evans with 39 points.

Nearest the pin and the longest drive Category 1 went to Helen Poole and longest drive Category 2 went to Tessa Matthews.

On the final day a return to the Crown course and a team Waltz was played with the winning team Geraldine Twamley, Jen Thomas, Helen Evans and Chris Evans.

Drinks were enjoyed each evening and prizes presented by Jan Cosby, ladies' captain, ably supported by vice captain Helen Poole.

Prior to departure refreshments were enjoyed and thanks were given to Jan and Helen for all their work to ensure everyone had a good time, and to Patsie Smith for organising the competitions. **CB**

Barrivale results

RESULTS from Barrivale Bridge Club for the August 5 annual competition for the Claret Jug and Doughty Bowl:

First, Dave Thomas and Noelle Bond 61.90 per cent; second, Jane Brook and Ken Hannah 57.74 per cent; third, Dave Reed and Mike Close 57.14 per cent. Jane Brook and Ken Hannah won on handicap.

The winners of the Claret Jug and its cash prize of £20, presented by the East Wales Bridge association, were the scratch winners Noelle Bond and Dave Thomas.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join, ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Welsh Petanque Association's friendly against Boules in Gwent

WELSH Petanque Association members played a friendly against the Boules In Gwent (BIG) on Sunday, July 27.

The annual WPA v BIG League Challenge Cup was held at Monkstone Petanque Club (Penylan) in fantastic boules weather conditions.

The BIG teams consisted of players from the Caerleon R.F.C. PC, Wheatsheaf PC, Machen PC, N.H.S.O.B. PC, and PILCS. PC.

The WPA was represented by players from Penarth, Monkstone, The Golden Mile, Pontyclun and Caerleon R.F.C petanque clubs.

After two rounds it was even at 8 – 8. In the third round the WPA forged ahead 15 – 9 winning seven games out of the eight but with 24 games to come there was still everything to play for.

As the weather got hotter so did the WPA, winning six games out of eight in the fourth round.

In the fifth round the WPA continued their form and won another six games out of eight although the results of some of the games were very close.

During the sixth and last round, the BIG rallied to take four games out of the eight but the damage had already been done with the final score being W.P.A with 31 wins and the B.I.G with 17 wins.

The BIG drew three rounds and were unlucky not to win some of the close games.

Trophies were awarded to the top pairs of both opposing sides. With six wins out of six to Liam Milton and Keith Kinset (Monkstone PC) from the WPA, and four wins out of six were taken by the BIG team, Hugh Morris and Mathew Morris (PILCS PC)

The WPA executive thanks the Monkstone PC for their hospitality and hosting the event, and look forward to next year's return competition to be hosted by the Boule in Gwent members. **JS**

We welcome your sports reports - email *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

CENTURIONS LOSE OUT IN CLOSE GAME

SULLY Centurions' First XI match was rained off, but the Second XI travelled to Malpas on an overcast day and came off second best in a match that was reduced to 35 overs.

The home side won the toss and put Centurions in to bat, but in just the second over the rains returned and caused a lengthy delay.

On return, Munim Khan, who had reached five, was bowled by Hassan, with the score on just 15. Skipper Dave Sylvester was next to depart, being run out for 18, after putting on 30 with Ricky Griffett.

Griffett and Jas Bassi then put on another 31 before Bassi was caught and bowled in spectacular fashion by Mohindra for 14, with the score on 74. Griffett then shifted up a gear and soon went past the 50 mark - ably supported by Mark Burnett.

The pair shared an entertaining partnership of 84 and both were still there at the close, with Burnett hitting 20 and Griffett pushing on to a well-made 80, including four sixes and five fours, as the innings finished on 160 for 3.

In the Malpas innings, Harri Edwards (2-14) bowled a nice line to frustrate the home openers and was rewarded with the wicket of Simmonds (2) in the fifth over, with the score on 10.

Mohindra batted well and was top scorer on 54. By the time he was out, with the score on 94, Malpas had lost five wickets.

Jones (28) pushed the score along, but Luke Burnett, Dave Sylvester, Josh Bryan and Herbie Miller all chipped in with a wicket each, plus the run out of Margetts, leaving the score on 141 for 7 in the 30th over.

With 20 runs required from the last five overs it proved to be a tense finale, but Hassan (13 not out) and Boothroyd (7 not out) held their nerve and the winning runs came with just two overs to go without further loss of wickets. All in all, a fine game, played in good spirit.

Malpas II 161-7 Sully Centurions II 160-3.

Celts are up and running!

THE Celts Warrior Ultra Trail Races and Survival Run takes place from Kenfig on August 23.

With a distinctive Celtic historical and cultural theme, the event is a 'back to basics' approach to trail running and obstacle racing.

The race starts in the Kenfig Nature Reserve, site of the Kenfig Castle ruin and a recently discovered Iron Age fort, traverses the south Wales coastline to the dunes of Merthyr Mawr and Candleston Castle, and finishes at Ogmore Castle.

"The 25km and 50km 'Dunes and Ruins' trail race options are only runs, but require the runners to carry their own nutrition and filter their own water. The course is tough and rugged and many times takes the path of most resistance, running through the largest sand dunes in the UK," a spokesman explained.

The 'Survival Run' is a 50km+ race with obstacles or challenges along the way. It takes the difficulty of the 50km run, and multiplies it 10x! Challenges are based on the ancient Celts' daily lifestyle, as well as Welsh language, culture and tradition.

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Local horse comes good at Penybont!

THE magic of Penybont races on the first Wednesday of August doesn't diminish as the years go by, it is one venue which has an unique atmosphere, built up since the first meeting 93 years ago. It still delights in the nickname of the Wembley of Wales and it is still the place that every horse owner wants their horse to come good.

Wellfieldlifestyle shone at Penybont recently.

The day began with the two Nursery races with young Oliver Jones steering the Perks family from Presteigne's horse Fold Elite to victory in the first while young Zac Lewis from Welshpool partnered his own George Gentle to win the second.

The racing 'proper' began with the Novice heats, with the first going to the up and coming Habberley Playboy (Johns Shrewsbury) driven as always by his trainer Derek Pritchard; in second was the impressive Chaps o Neil (Morgan Builth) while Miss Jackpot (Langford Ammanford) was third.

In the second heat Dragon Penlan partnered by Aled Davies for the Barton family from Clunderwen were first passed the post from Greenwood Romeo (Duggan Llangunllo) and Blackfield Billie (Lewis Welshpool).

Aled gained a back to back double by winning the third Novice heat aboard Brywins Lucky Charm for enthusiastic supporters the Jones family from Brecon, while C U Choteau (Thomas Llanbister) was second and Chinatown Lucky (Williams Pencader) was third.

The grade B heats were next on the card, in the first heat Habberley Haste (Lloyd New Radnor) coming back from an out of season injury, provided a good win for his trainer Andrew Hardwick; in second place was the grey Camden Lock (Probert Merthyr) while Vyrnwy Taffie (Evans Llanybydder) was third.

In the second heat the backmarker Wellfieldlifestyle, the new horse belonging to the Edmunds family from Porthcawl and piloted by nephew Mark White, came home in front of Holmes Dreamer (Eggerton Norton Canon) and Greenhill Cliff (Williams Brecon).

Kickstart (Williams Brecon) added to his reputation in the hands of Andrew Hardwick in the third heat, winning from Too Hot Today (Jones Merthyr) and newcomer The Bold Jack (Gething Gilwern).

The first heat of the grade A was won by last year's winner Bon Jasper (Jones Llanllwni), again employing the services of young Mark White to drive; in second was Blackfield Buddy (Barton Clunderwen) with Cloudburst (Eggerton Norton Canon) in third.

Rhyds Desire (Thomas Rhymney) qualified in fine style in the second grade A heat in the capable hands of young garage mechanic Mark Evans from Brecon, Meadowland Hasty (Price Brecon) ran well to be second with last week's hero Chaps Commander (Jones Talgarreg) in third. Clares Own (Evans Newcastle Emlyn) never runs a bad race and qualified for another final with usual pilot Mathew Tromans, while Ithon Inmate (Price Brecon) gave the family another second and the little Terripan Hanover (Davies Dihewyd) was third.

After the electric atmosphere of the heats, the Baby Novice races gave the younger horses centre stage. The first race provided a win for Brywins Crispy Duck (Davies Drefach) from Hendre Princess (Jones Llanllwni) in second, with Big Harry (Duggan Llangunllo) third.

In the second race the diminutive Ithon Gift (Bird Ludlow) gave a popular win for long time supporter trainer/driver Richard Adams from Anchor, while Hilltop Surprise (Tromans Newcastle Emlyn) was second and Self Pozest and James Hussey from Merthyr was third.

Made in Wales (Evans Red Roses) with Aled Davies at the controls took the third Baby Novice from Grecho the Kingswood horse belonging to Mike Lloyd while stylish Pilsbury Lady (Rogers Asterton) was third.

The saddle trot is always a popular feature of grass racing and it was Ithon Ghost (Wilson Llanfihangel ar arth) partnered by Rebecca Hitchcock who claimed the honours from Bon Hasty (Collingwood Huntington) with Tyssul Pearl (Barton Clunderwen) and Llwyns Hall (White Porthcawl) sharing third prize.

Lakeside Pan the new horse belonging to old favourite John Elder from New Quay took the dash driven by son Wayne, while No Mercy (Weigel Llanddewi Velfrey) was second and Mahogany Magic (Davies Dehewyd) was third.

The tension mounted with the three finals; the first, the Novice gave the Johns family from Shrewsbury reason to celebrate as Derek Pritchard brought back marker Habberley Playboy home in front of Brywins Lucky Charm (Jones Brecon) and Chaps O Neil (Morgan Builth).

This win now qualifies Habberley Playboy for open racing.

The Grade B final provided a win for another backmarker as Wellfieldlifestyle powered home for the Edmunds family from Porthcawl, with Kickstart (Williams Brecon) second and another backmarker The Bold Jack (Gething Gilwern) in third. The next time Wellfieldlifestyle appears on a race track he will be in the Grade A.

The penultimate race of the day was the Grade A final, which is every horse owner's dream. This year Bon Jasper (Jones Llanllwni) showed what a class horse he is, by repeating last year's success, in the hands of Mark White; he joins the very select band of horses who have won Penybont premier race more than once.

In second place was Clares Own (Evans Newcastle Emlyn) while Meadowland Hasty (Price Brecon) was third.

The final race of the day was the mile and a half, this is one of the original races began almost a century ago, and it still holds a special place in the hearts of the locals.

Blackies Boy the sometimes erratic horse belonging to the Prosser family from Libanus, and driven by Melanie Langford proved he had plenty of stamina for the extra distance, as they came home in front of Dernol Duke (Wozencraft Llangurig) and Tommy the Dealer (Bevan Llanddewi).

The final award was a cup in memory of the late Colin Davies who for so long guided Penybont races as commentator and committee member.

The family presented the cup to Mark White as leading driver on the day having secured four wins, two of which were the Grade A & B finals. A day that this young man will not forget in a hurry.

On Saturday August 16th Postbach, races in Ceredigion start at 1pm.

ML

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, August 6 - First, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; second, John Beard and Liam Sheridan: third, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Friday, August 8 - First, David Newman and Glyn Williams; second Norma Newman and Andy Robertshaw; equal third, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams & Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for August 7 were Stuart Davies Colin Lewis Vanessa Beacham and Arthur Harvey.

A new series of lessons will commence on Thursday, September 18 at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall - these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play. To book a place on the course or to obtain more information contact John Evens 01656 880372.

View the Bridgend Duplicate Bridge Club's website for more information about the club and its forthcoming events.

DN

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SCORPIONS DEFEATED BY ALL GOLDS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE All Golds earned their third win of the season over South Wales Scorpions in a competitive game at Maesteg RFC, running out 28-16 winners.

The Scorpions, for a third time this season against their local rivals, earned a bonus point but they know it could have been so much more having three debatable tries ruled out after the break.

Steve Parry returned from injury to take on his former club. Out for almost a year, his last game for Gloucester was against Gateshead Thunder in Lydney. It's only his 10th game for the club since joining them after leaving the Scorpions 15 months and three of those have been against the Welsh side! The former South Wales top try scorer marked this occasion with a customary try.

All Golds stamped their authority on the game from the off, taking the lead on eight minutes after Danny Thomas set up Phil Cowburn to give them the lead. Bradley's conversion attempt hit the post.

Brecon-born Wales student international Izaak Duffy set up Ben White to go over for All Golds' second try soon after that, Bradley converted.

It was a superb try that got the Scorpions back into the game. Bridgend's Shaun Owens darted in and out of the All Golds backline leaving them for dead to score in the corner. Emanuelli converted well.

Duffy dived over from dummy half to increase All Golds lead – Bradley easily converted – and the Welshman almost got a second for himself, but good defending caused him to drop the ball as he was diving for the line.

But it was the mercurial Parry who, as in the game in Neath a year ago, scored against his former side. Bradley failed to add the extras leaving the All Golds 22-6 up at the break.

The team talk looked to have worked. Maesteg-born Lloyd O'Connor made the groundwork, laying off to Chris Leyshon who sprinted over. Emanuelli converted.

For the next 20 minutes, the teams were touching down left right and centre but nothing counted. Scorpions suffered from the referee's debatable decisions three times. First Shaun Owens was held up over the line, then an Osian Phillips score, his first touch of the ball after coming on as substitute, was pulled back for a forward pass.

All Golds were similarly penalised after Phil Cowburn's attempt, in a carbon copy of Phillips', was chalked out while soon after that Owens had another go for the Scorpions but the referee strangely ruled crossing.

The visitors were the first to get the next legitimate try after Miles Fairbank dived home in the corner. Bradley converted well.

Finally, the Scorpions' solid second half attacking paid off and Ian Newbury saw a gap and dived over. This one was given with Emanuelli's kick hitting the post. Again they kept attacking, Emanuelli's kick, aimed for Osian Phillips, was cleared for a goal-line drop-out.

With five minutes to go, Connor Farrer, on as substitute, was stopped short by an illegal tackle by Brendan Smith. The All Golds loose forward was sent to the bin but Farrer wasn't awarded a penalty try. An ordinary penalty was given but the opportunity was wasted.

The visitors could have denied their hosts even a bonus point but didn't go for the drop goal when in range and a somewhat controversial game fizzled to an end.

IG

UNDER 19s - SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS 38 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ALL GOLDS 32

SOUTH Wales' under-19s side took revenge for a previous defeat from their Gloucester counterparts by beating them 38-32 in a classic curtain-raiser in Maesteg.

The lead switched hands on a number of occasions and the Welsh lads even found themselves 16-0 down early on in the game.

All Golds took an early lead as Luke Stephens charged through. James Mason converted.

A length of the field run from Josh Williams increased the advantage and Mason duly goaled to double the lead.

The third came minutes later from Joe Ryder, which went unconverted, but Scorpions hit back with an unconverted score from Joe Symons. A fine Paul Edwards run down the wing led to that try, which Ben Jones converted.

The comeback was definitely on. Symons sprinted down the left for Scorpions' third. The conversion was missed leaving the Welsh two points down and just before the interval, Marcus Webb set up Gethyn Lloyd in the corner to put Scorpions in the lead for the first time in the game. Jones converted again, but there was still time for Dale Cooper to sprint through to level things for the visitors. Mason missed the kick and it was 20-20 at the break.

It was tit for tat again in the second half. Dan Spencer-Tonks broke through the defence to score a try under the sticks for the All Golds that Mason goaled.

Scorpions hit back minutes later when Paul Edwards dived in the corner. Ben Jones missed the conversion. Joe Rider scored the All Golds' second try, with Mason's kick again successful to give them a 32-24 lead but after that it was all Scorpions as they charged to victory.

Shane Lee scored over the whitewash, keeping them in the match, but Jones missed the kick so the Welshmen were still four points adrift.

They went two points in front as Paul Edwards scrambled over the line for his hat-trick near the hour mark, with Zak Williams converting.

To complete the victory, Scorpions added another with Shane Lee crashing through the defence where he gave a fine pass to Curtis Davies. Williams missed the kick but it mattered not as the Scorpions under-19s finished their season with five wins out of six.

SG

We welcome your sports news and other items of interest - email *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*